March, 2009 / Issue: 39

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PANZEE Press

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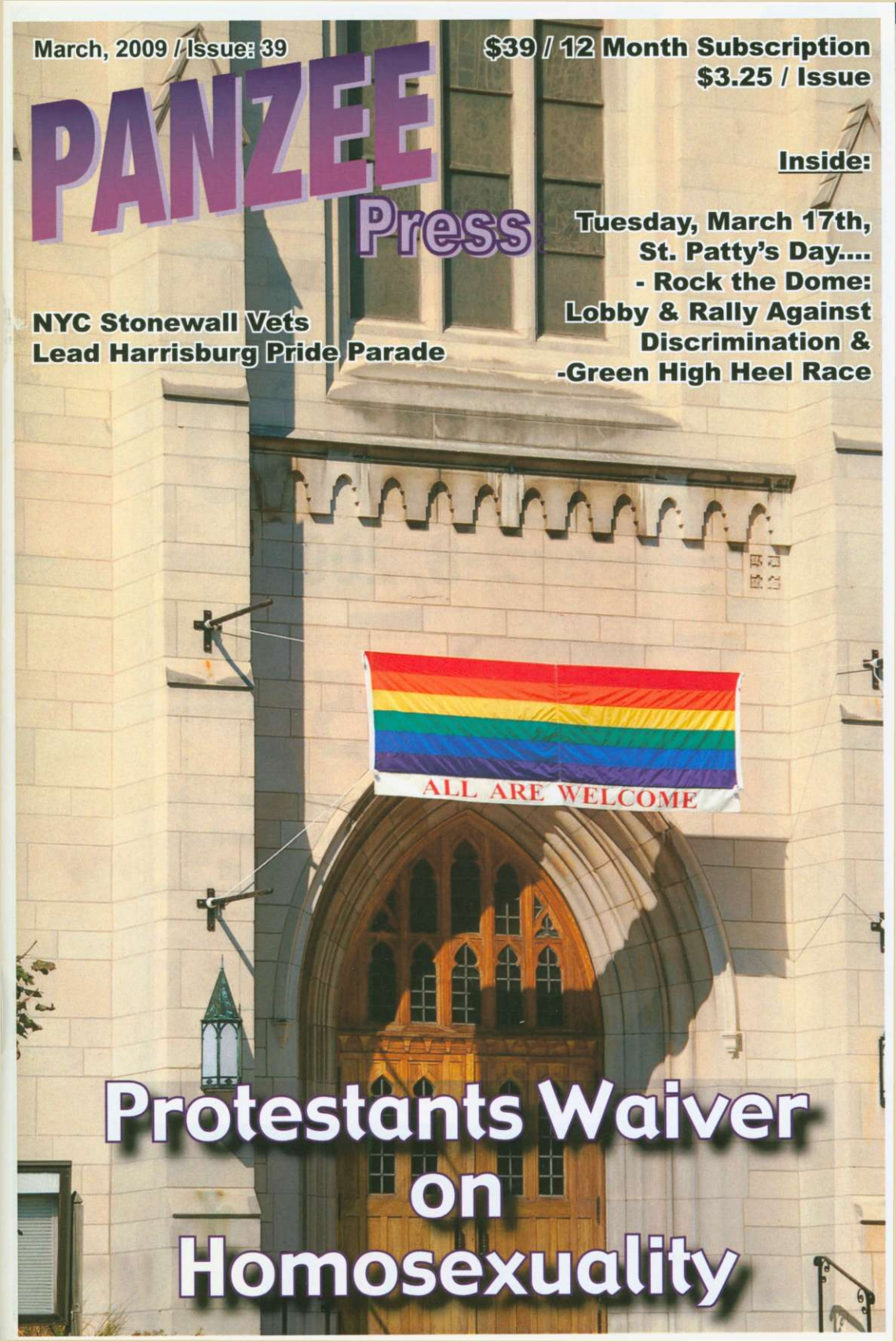
- Rock the Dome: Lobby & Rally Against Discrimination &
-Green High Heel Race

NYC Stonewall Vets Lead Harrisburg Pride Parade



Protestants Waiver on Homosexuality

GAY DAYS ORLANDO

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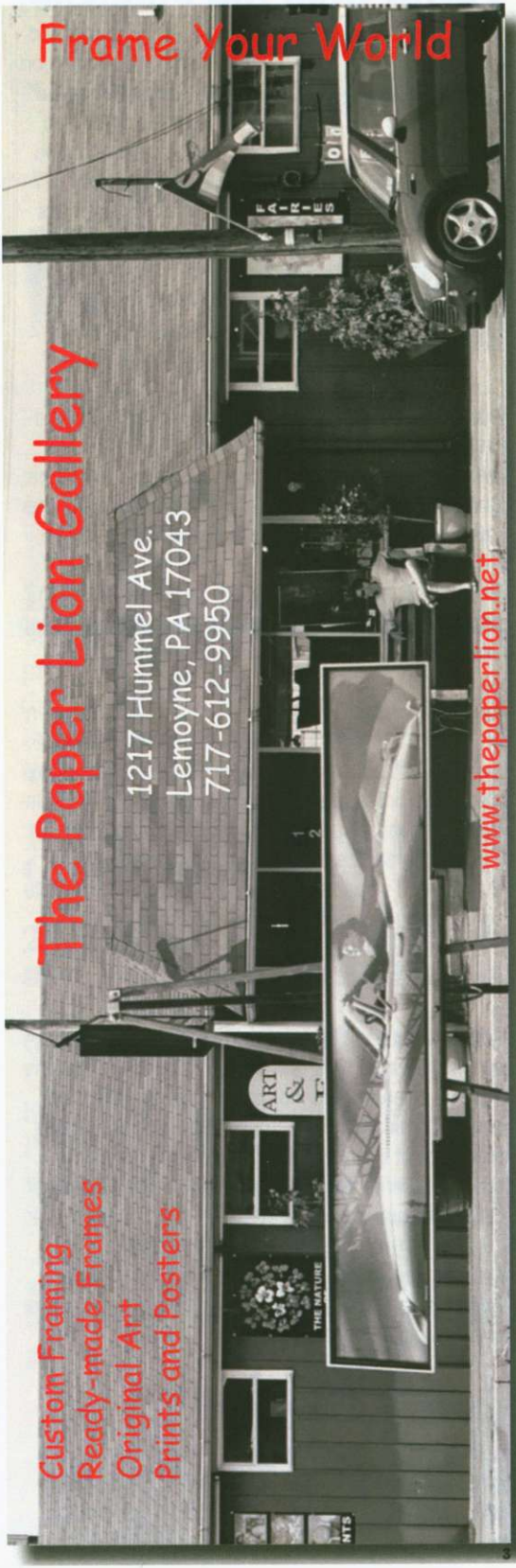

Letter from the Publisher

Thanks to all who attended Jamie's and my wedding on February 11th. In lieu of a wedding present feel free to purchase a subscription to Panzee Press. Call 877-499-5240 during business hours with a credit card, or send your check for $39 to:
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But seriously, thanks to all that came out to the Freedom to Marry Rally. While Panzee did play a large roll in organizing it this year, special thanks to Alanna Berger who headed it up, as she's been doing for five years. See photos and details inside.

Equal rights are huge in this new legislative session. Lobbyist, legislators and activists are falling over each other trying to find the best path to get things done. As it stands, you'll see Equality Advocates PA's column in this issue talking about the non-discrimination bill. They're hitting strong and fast as they ask you to participate in a lobby day / rally on March 17th. You'll also find a press release on the subject from Rep. Babette Josephs. Waiting in the wings is a hate crimes bill. Of course, the most heated topic is equality in marriage. It's important to keep these goals separate so we can get non-discrimination passed on its own merit without mixing it with other issues which bring out those crazy extreme prejudice people.

Also this issue, you'll see Pride Festival of Central PA out with a whole slew of topics. When you review the Panzee calendar, you'll discover you can leave the non-discrimination rally, cross the street and witness the antics of the Green High Heel Race benefiting the entertainment for next summer's Pride Festival of Central Pennsylvania.

In these pages, you'll find reviews from the Winter Arts Festival, the Freedom to Marry Rally and several events from a very busy February 21st.

Drag Queens are big in the news. We had a lot of response to the puzzle within Stonewall Democrat's column last month, so this month we prepared a crossword puzzle containing names of most local drag queens. You'll also read about the start of the pageant season with the first Miss Gay PA America preliminary, Miss Rising Star. While the America system is getting started for a new year, Danny tells you that Miss Drag All-Star has put off the end of their 2008/2009 pageant.

Liz tells you about a great book; Giovanni tells you about St. Joseph's day; Clayton tells you about Milk and Jeanine tells you about a T party. Carrie demonstrates more great art, Deb offers nutrition advice, and Uncle Ed has concerns (easy there Ed, you're gonna blow a gasket). Stonewall is in with Cheers and Jeers. Vision of Hope analyzes "Queer," including our community's reclaiming of the derogatory word (I can't help to see the similarly with the word "Panzee"). The LGBT Center, Common Roads and Club XS are all teamed up regarding a fun filled bingo night. Gayly Forward is in with overzealous pride. Kenneth D. Richards is back in Story Time where he's summarizing a book he's contemplating; send a note to Panzee@PanzeePress.com and let him know what you think. Many of you were concerned over the absent Allegedly column… have no fear, Biscuit's back, although Kitty scooped her in her own bar's gossip with last month's issue. Of course Joe Carr's characters are in their usual spot, just above the SUBSCRIPTION FORM.

For the cover story, since gay marriage is a hot topic around the country and at home, I wanted to analyze the driving force behind opposition to equality in marriage: church. The author of the old Phil-osophy column has assisted. The Harrisburg Lutheran congregation specifically reaches out to the gay community and is hosting a luncheon for the non-discrimination legislation lobby and rally day. However, the Lutherans as a whole, specifically declare that marriage should be between one man and one woman. While the local pastor participated in a Philadelphia ordination of a Lutheran gay minister, the top hierarchy of the church dictates that clergy are expected to abstain from homosexual sexual relations. You'll find similar wavering within the other two churches we analyzed.

I hope you love this issue because we loved putting it together for you. As always, it's our best one yet.

Bolton Winpenny, C.O.O.
Panzee Press, LLC

Letters to the Editor

[In response to the Feb. 2009 Cover Story "Sexual Minority Revolution"]

Don't Ask, Don't Tell has ALWAYS been a sore point with me because it was a joke ... a slap in the face to the people it was supposed to have protected. Don't Ask, Don't Tell essentially says: "It's OK for you to be gay, but you can't say anything." Screw that ... I don't ride in the back of the bus! I personally believe that the ONLY reason the military even allows us the privilege of serving our fellow Americans is they figure, "So what if we lose the lives of a few gay people?" One half of my rights is NONE of my rights. Don't Ask, Don't Tell was and will always remain an insult to our brothers and sisters, both gay AND straight. What about our effeminate men and butch women in the service? How are they to falsify their very essence? As an openly gay man with two straight Marine brothers I have been fortunate enough to have their support. The Don't Ask, Don't Tell directive is a half-assed policy that made my brother's gay friends in the service try to hide their true identities. How sad that these "FREE" American service people had to "pretend" in order to do the jobs they do so well!

When will we accept nothing less than any other minority?

R. Randall Gooding

Hi Deb,
I like your articles online and in the Panzee. I have been drinking more water since I read your article and have seen good skin improvement w/ the water. Thanks for the simple idea.

Patti Fike

Panzee,
I wanted to offer you a free ticket to the MILK screening on Thursday, January 15th benefiting Friends of Dan Miller.

Alex Reber,
Stonewall Democrats

That's really nice of you, thanks of thinking of it, but no. Panzee's covering the event anyway and I have no problem donating to the cause. I think Dan Miller will make a great controller for Harrisburg, and since I have investment properties in the city, I think $25 to get him elected will save me far more than $25 in the long run.

Bolton Winpenny, C.O.O.
Panzee Press, LLC

On March 17th

the

Value All Families Coalition

is hosting a

Lobby Day / Rally

in order to encourage our legislators to vote **"YES"** on

House Bill 300,

a non discrimination bill to add

"Sexual Orientation and Gender Identity"

into

Pennsylvania's Human Relations Act.

11:30- Free lunch at St. Michael's Lutheran Church, provided by Bolton and Jamie with drinks from Stonewall Democrats and Pepsi. During lunch you can receive training to lobby your legislator.

1:00- Rally in the Capitol Rotunda

2:00- Go Meet your senator and house representative

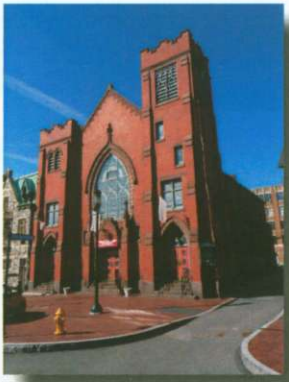
6:00- Coincidentally, the Green High Heel Race, benefitting the entertainment for the Pride Festival of Central Pennsylvania, will be running that very evening. So, after your day of activism, stop by **Neptune's Lounge** and watch the antics as runners in high heels race in and out of bars within the gay district.

PANZEE Press

Protestants Waiver On Homosexuality

The foundation of discrimination against sexual minorities lies within the church. However, not all churches, maybe not even most, wish to keep us suppressed. Some houses of God are fully in support of equality. MCC and the Unitarian Universalists are not only open to the idea of equality, but we see them standing up for us at every turn. The range in policies regarding BGLQT issues within the vast amount of churches is as diverse as the people within. The issue gets more complex through the tiers of hierarchy that govern each church. A stroll through the religions of Harrisburg offers a plethora of mindsets, policies, and controversies when considering what place sexual minorities hold within the church.

The Protestants are paying close attention to the issue of homosexuality. While tradition and regulations of a church are hard to change, the appeals of sexual minority congregation members are being heard. Three different Protestant denominations within Harrisburg, each having their own governing system and decision making process, are all undergoing the same transition. While the top tiers of each denomination remain opposed to same sex marriage or homosexual ministers, the congregants and pastors of each congregation are asking for equality, and asking their higher orders to reconsider their principles.



St. Michael's Lutheran Church

St. Michael Lutheran Church (St. Michael's) includes "gay, lesbian, bisexual or transgender" in their welcoming statement just before the words, "We are a Reconciling in Christ Church." They have a same-sex blessing policy which is within the folds of their higher order, Evangelical Lutheran Church in America (ELCA). They also have a ministry policy that disregards sexual orientation or gender identity, which defiantly contradicts the ELCA.

In 2003, the congregation council of St. Michael's adopted a "Policy for Non-Traditional Services of Blessing," which includes blessings for "same sex couples." In 2008 the ELCA released a "Draft Statement on Human Sexuality," which concludes that the church "does not have a consensus regarding loving and committed same-gender relationships. [...] Some pastors and congregations will advocate repentance and celibacy. Other pastors and congregations will call our same-gender-oriented brothers and sisters in Christ to establish relationships that are chaste, mutual, monogamous, and life-long. These relationships are to be held to the same rigorous standards and sexual ethics as all others." The draft goes on to say that ELCA recognizes the term "marriage" to be between one man and one woman and "does not wish to alter this understanding." It further recognizes that states are defining their own terms for "marriage" and clarifies, "This is the prerogative of the state, which is the realm in which civil marriage and the laws governing it exist."

On February 19, 2009, after reviewing congregational responses to the draft, the ECLA released "Human Sexuality: Gift and Trust," which they refer to as a "proposed social statement." The lack of a Lutheran consensus regarding same sex marriage is reiterated. The newer document outlines four conflicting viewpoints on the subject. While the marriage definition of "one man and one woman" is provided as "tradition", the ECLA-proposed social statement excludes any indication whether or not they wish to alter this understanding.

Both the draft and the proposed social statement clearly express the desire for equality and protection for same-sex oriented people and same-sex couples under civil law. This includes civil-unions which have the same benefits as marriage.

A gay minister is a more controversial subject within the Lutheran church. The "Draft Statement on Human Sexuality" discussed above was the result of a four year study (2001 to 2005) within the Lutheran church by the "Task Force for the ELCA Studies on Sexuality." The task force presented three recom-

mendations: 1) ... "be urged to concentrate on finding ways to live together faithfully in the midst of disagreements" ...; 2) ... "welcome gay and lesbian persons into its life [...], and trust pastors and congregations to discern ways to provide faithful pastoral care to same-sex couples; and 3) Ordain gays and lesbians in committed relationships.

While the first two recommendations fit on a half page, the third recommendation stretches across three pages including a background, a discussion of two positions (Homosexuality as sin and brokenness vs. Homosexuality as condition, not choice), rationale and description of the proposed process and finally the recommendation in legislative terms. The recommendation is quite convoluted, and difficult to summarize. The #3 summary given in the above paragraph was taken from "Minutes of the Lutheran Episcopal Coordinating Committee (LECC) June 20-22, 2005."

The first two recommendations were adopted by the ELCA Churchwide Assembly; the third was not. The ELCA policy, dictating within "Visions and Expectations", stands as: "Ordained ministers who are homosexual in their self-understanding are expected to abstain from homosexual sexual relationships."

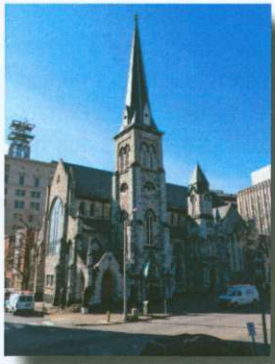
St. Michaels is a member of "Reconciling in Christ" (RIC) (lcna.org/ric.shtm). This program was started after a 2002 movement within the Lutheran church to include people of all sexual orientations and gender identities.

On www.elm.org, you'll find much information about an organization named Extraordinary Lutheran Ministries (ELM), including their mission statement, which starts as, "Our vision is to create, empower, and sustain a growing number of faith communities that are committed to the full participation of people of all sexual orientations and gender identities in the life and ministry of the Lutheran church."

Pastor Larry Hawkins

On January 25th, Rev. Steve Keiser, a member of the ELM roster, was ordained in Philadelphia. Harrisburg's pastor, Larry Hawkins, took part in a procession of forty clergy and five hundred congregants. Most memorable to Pastor Hawkins was the laying on of hands. Rev. Keiser stood in the middle of the congregation, and everybody laid their hands on him. For those who couldn't reach, hands were put on the shoulders of those in front of them. Hawkins says, "It was a very moving and wonderful event." Hawkins knows of no formal response from ECLA.

St. Michael's remains a warm, welcoming place to find the divine, and worship within a traditional environment regardless of legislation, and hierarchy governing tiers. Pastor Larry Hawkins seeks out ways to ensure his congregation has a channel to the Lord, and that members have a firm network of support regardless of their sexual orientation. The topic of homosexuality and the church gives Pastor Hawkins a great deal of pain and sorrow. He feels that a religious attitude to isolate and reject people as they are, and alienating a large population away from their Lord, is devastating.



Pine Street Presbyterian Church

Same-gender marriage has not yet arisen in the Pine Street Presbyterian Church, according to its pastor Dr. Russell Sullivan, Jr. He explained during a brief discussion that the Presbyterian Church of the United States (PCUSA) has stated that sexual orientation should not be a hindrance to a person's search for God and the divine. He noted the PCUSA still encourages more study and reflection on these issues.

In 1978, the PCUSA General Assembly released a major statement paper entitled, "The Church and Homosexuality: A Preliminary Study," which explored the legal rights of homosexuals, their place in the church, and the ordination of homosexuals as deacons,

elders, or ministers. While then concluding, "the practice of homosexuality is sin," the paper ardently qualified its conclusions by noting many unanswered questions and stating: "Because God continues to reveal more of himself and His will in each succeeding age, we do not believe that a position taken in any one period sets forth the final understanding of his Word to the church." The PCUSA position in these categories has evolved over the years as a result of this open-minded and compassionate approach.

Pastor Dr. Russell Sullivan Jr.

Pastor Sullivan explained how the PCUSA continually urges contextual interpretation of Scripture, and that he would not summarily discourage homosexual behavior, wanting instead to achieve a greater understanding of the individual. As "all persons are created in the image of God," the PCUSA has encouraged the church's sensitivity to "the difficulty of rejecting a person's sexual orientation without rejecting the person. [The church] should be open to more light on what goes into shaping one's sexual preferences and reexamine its life and teaching in relation to people who are seeking affirmation and needing acceptance and who are apparently not free to change their orientations." In the decades following the preliminary study, the PCUSA has encouraged a welcoming and inclusive approach to the issue, emphasizing compassion and understanding, and has affirmed the fundamental civil and non-discrimination rights of sexual minorities and the decriminalization of any associated behaviors.

Concerning same-gender unions, the PCUSA has consistently interpreted Scripture as "God's intention for all people is to live either in fidelity within the covenant of marriage between a man and a woman or in chastity in singleness." From this interpretation, Pastor Sullivan cannot perform any ceremony that would "marry" a same-gender couple, though he is able to offer blessings to a same-gender "union." In 2004 a PCUSA statement affirmed this distinction, yet also urged state and federal legislators to "change state [federal] laws to include the right of same-gender persons to civil union and, thereby, to extend to them all the benefits, privileges, and responsibilities of civil union, and urges all persons to support such changes." Pastor Sullivan explained his emphasis on God's intention – "fidelity in marriage, chastity in singleness" – over the distinction between "marriage" and "union." Again reflecting on the possibility that God's will may not yet be fully revealed, Pastor Sullivan realizes he may be currently restricted, yet he extends himself where he can, emphasizing good behaviors and allowing for a later evolution of the church's position.

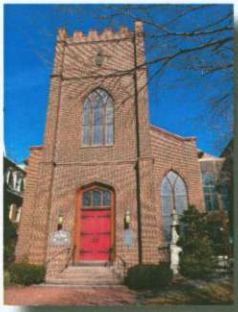
The root definition of "homosexuality as sin" led to the PCUSA's 1979 position regarding ordination:

- To be an ordained officer is to be a human instrument, touched by divine power but still an earthen vessel. As portrayed in scripture, the officers set before the church and community an example of piety, love, service and moral integrity. Officers are not free from repeated expressions of sin. Neither are members and officers free to adopt a lifestyle of conscious, continuing and unresisted sin in any area of their lives. For the church to ordain a self-affirming practicing homosexual person to ministry would be to act in contradiction of its charter and calling in scripture, setting motion both within the church and in society serious contradictions to the will of Christ.

- The repentant homosexual person who finds the power of Christ redirecting his or her sexual desires toward a married heterosexual commitment, or finds God's power to control his or her desires and to adopt a celibate lifestyle, can certainly be ordained, all other qualifications being met.

The PCUSA affirmed this position in 1982 and 1993 and, following a three-year study, evolved their position only slightly in 1996 stating: "Persons refusing to repent of any self-acknowledged practice which the confessions call sin shall not be ordained and/or installed as deacons, elders, or ministers." The same statement later requested the congregations and presbyteries to "continue study of the issue of ordination and human sexuality...relating to the goal of seeking more clarity in discerning God's will" and to remain open to "the leading of God's Spirit, especially in those spaces between our differences where a more complete understanding of God's Truth is being sought."

As a member of the Presbytery of Carlisle, the Pine Street Presbyterian Church includes many examples of community service: they operate Downtown Daily Bread and Giving Tree, conduct recycling and eco-friendly programs, partner in various collection programs ("Contribute your unused eyeglasses!"), and offer peacemaking and disaster relief mission work. The church offers a consistent message of welcome and inclusiveness, from their Sunday service handouts to Pastor Sullivan's easy, open manner. As one church among its presbytery, Pine Street reflects the PCUSA's encouragement of a compassionate approach, and its recognition that while questions regarding sexual minorities and inclusion remain, they can be approached with love as directed by the continual search to understand God's will.



St. Stephens Episcopal Cathedral

Located on Front St. in downtown Harrisburg, St. Stephen's Episcopal Cathedral functions as a member and home office of the Diocese of Central Pennsylvania. The Diocese aligns with the Episcopal Church, USA and the Worldwide Anglican Communion. The Episcopalian approach is another variation in the Protestant Christian tradition, and one which recent events suggest is slightly more progressive than some Christian counterparts. Rev. Patrick Collins, Curate for St. Stephen's, invoked this progressive and open manner in a conversation regarding matters of sexual orientation, same-gender couples, and Episcopalian ordination.

As the Episcopalian Church understands itself as a Reformed Christian viewpoint, they simultaneously hold high respect for their traditions yet keep them available for continual challenge and development. Rev. Collins spoke of this theological approach as one of "tension and acceptance," encouraging positions of inclusiveness and compassionate mutual listening to all viewpoints equally. Rev. Collins emphasized a "contextual interpretation of Scripture" as one cause for the wide range of positions, depending on the extent a person (parish, diocese) finds The Bible as the living word of God versus a book written by man – thus with all his flaws – and intended to represent God's teachings. Specific Bible verses supposedly speak to the issue of same-gender union and are interpreted oppositely by each side of the argument. The end result, it would seem, has become what Rev. Collins cautioned as a "real fracturing" within the Anglican-Episcopalian Communion.

Rev. Patrick A. Collins

The question (comparatively speaking) does not surround mere acceptance of alternative lifestyles into the Episcopalian faith; they could be reasonably considered an early innovator in this regard. Theologically – which the Instruments of Communion (the Anglican four governing components) are careful to maintain framing – the question seems to arise as concerning the heterosexual, procreative aspect to the Bible's (currently interpreted) definition of "marriage."

In 1998 the Lambeth Conference, one such Communion Instrument, released Resolution I.10 on Human Sexuality:

> **This Conference,**
>
> **a)** in view of the teaching of Scripture, upholds faithfulness in marriage between a man and a woman in lifelong union, and believes that abstinence is right for those who are not called to marriage;
>
> **b)** recognizes that there are among us persons who experience themselves as having a homosexual orientation. Many of these are members of the Church and are seeking the pastoral care, moral direction of the Church, and God's transforming power for the living of their lives and the ordering of relationships. We commit ourselves to listen to the experience of homosexual persons and we wish to assure them that they are loved by God and that all baptized, believing and faithful persons, regardless of sexual orientation, are full members of the Body of Christ;

c) while rejecting homosexual practice as incompatible with Scripture, calls on all our people to minister pastorally and sensitively to all irrespective of sexual orientation and to condemn irrational fear of homosexuals, violence within marriage and any trivialisation and commercialisation of sex;

d) cannot advise the legitimising or blessing of same sex unions nor ordaining those involved in same gender unions;

These findings were both lauded and criticized. (It should be noted that "homosexual practice" in c. above includes a non-celibate approach.) The Most Reverend Frank T. Griswold, The Episcopal Church, USA Presiding Bishop at the time, stated of these findings: "Rather than settling the matter once and for all, the Lambeth Conference has brought the subject of homosexuality into the public discourse of the Communion, something which would have been impossible at the last Lambeth Conference ten years ago."

Resolution I.10's statement that "...we commit ourselves to listen to the experience of homosexual and faithful persons..." prompted the Anglican Consultative Council (another Communion Instrument with members of both the clergy and the laity) to appoint a Facilitator to "The Listening Process." This position is substantively supported with online resources for parishes and dioceses to aid in their understanding and acceptance of those with alternative lifestyles, including the publication, "The Anglican Communion and Homosexuality." Facilitator Rev. Philip Groves wrote the publication and manages the online support, which suggests a strong understanding of the issue's divisiveness in the Communion: "The prevalence of homophobia (the irrational fear of gay and lesbian people) has led to those who hold a traditional view of the inappropriateness of sexual activity outside marriage being labeled as homophobic just for holding those views. In consequence they too have felt it unsafe to articulate their views. Safe ground includes space for honesty about conservative attitudes to sexuality."

The Diocese of New Hampshire fueled the debate on the church's potential move to recognize and bless same-sex relationships by electing Reverend V. Gene Robinson – an openly gay priest in a monogamous committed relationship – as their ninth diocesan bishop. Entering office in March 2004, Robinson quickly became a touchstone which launched the discussion to greater prominence. (Most recently, Bishop Robinson delivered the invocation at President Obama's inaugural kickoff event, though it was widely held that his selection was made only to offset Rick Warren's selection, and some broadcasts of the kickoff event failed to include Robinson's invocation.)

The combination of Bishop Robinson's election and the choice of a Canadian diocese in to "authorise services for use in connection with same sex unions" led the Lambeth Commission in 2004 to prepare The Windsor Report, whose mandate (at the behest of the Archbishop of Canterbury) was to offer insight and information to aid the Anglican Communion's understanding of these issues. In the Report's Foreword, to Lambeth Commission Chairman Dr. Robin Eames wrote: "The depth of conviction and feeling on all sides of the current issues has on occasions introduced a degree of harshness and a lack of charity which is new to Anglicanism. A process of dissent is not new to the Communion but it has never before been expressed with such force nor in ways which have been so accessible to international scrutiny. Not all the opinions voiced have been expressed in ways which are conducive to dialogue or the encouragement of communion."

The 2004 release prompted the creation of The Windsor Continuation Group to apply, adopt, and evolve the positions stated in the initial report. The Group released a set of Initial Observations at the 2008 Lambeth Conference which spoke to a potential loss of trust within the Anglican Communion, the turmoil this issue has caused with the Episcopal Church, and the long road the full Communion must still travel in its theological interpretation of Scripture to achieve a greater understanding of "God's will."

Efforts for full BGLQT inclusion in all matters Episcopalian have their allies and advocates. Integrity USA (integrityusa. org) is a nonprofit organization which since 1974 has been "the leading grassroots voice for the full inclusion of BLGQT persons in the Episcopal Church and equal access to its rites." Integrity has partner parishes in Reading and Wilkes-Barre, and local chapters in Philadelphia, Bethlehem, and Pittsburgh. Integrity is part of Claiming the Blessing (claimingtheblessing.org), "an unincorporated

coalition of Episcopal organizations and individuals advocating for full inclusion of all the baptized in all sacraments of the church – including the blessing of same-sex relationships and equal access to all orders of ministry by qualified gay, lesbian, bisexual, and transgendered candidates."

There are, however, equally strong organizations advocating a more conservative interpretation of Scripture. Among the most vocal is the American Anglican Council (americananglican.org) whose history suggests reactions to Anglican Communion Instrument positions which directly oppose more liberal advocacy groups.

Conclusion

St. Michael's was included in this article since the BGLQT community is specifically addressed in its outreach. Within a random group of churches upon which we inquired, Pine Street Presbyterian and St. Stephen's were the first two to make themselves available. We're not sure if other churches purposely eluded us, or if they were unavailable because of their pressed schedules. We ended up with three Protestant churches, perhaps because this is where the most wavering resides.

The contradictory nature of this topic makes it a difficult read, but if you comb through it carefully you'll find some interesting similarities. On the downside, none of these churches will officially recognize same-sex marriage, nor ordain gay clergy. On the up-side, there is movement within all three to do the opposite. For all three churches the personal approach of the clergy gave one the sense of a foot soldier that keeps in step with headquarters, but retains the openness of each congregation's vast diversity. All churches hold strong support for equal protection and rights for each person; this includes civil union with similar benefits to marriage.

Philip Wheeler authored
Pine Street Presbyterian and St. Stephens

Bolton Winpenny authored
St. Michael's

Save the Date
Friday, May 1st
Starts at 6pm

black white party

Starring:

Sandra Bernhard

Only at:

CLUB XS

www.clubxsyork.com
for more details

Equality Advocates Pennsylvania
formerly the Center for Lesbian and Gay Civil Rights

Stand Up, Speak Out, and Rock the Dome!

By: Jake Kaskey, Policy and Outreach Coordinator, Equality Advocates PA

How often have we gathered, brothers and sisters across the Commonwealth and indeed, the nation, to stop or protest harmful and hurtful legislation that affects the entire LGBT community? Thousands across Pennsylvania and millions from coast to coast took to the streets following the devastating passage of Proposition 8 in California. We were, at that moment, standing arm-in-arm in solidarity with those on the entirely opposite side of the continent. Often our voices, and the voices of our allies, speak out against something: Against the passage of Proposition 8. Against the effort to amend our own state's constitution to limit same-sex relationship recognition. Not this time.

This March, Representative Dan Frankel (Pittsburgh) will re-introduce legislation that would protect lesbian, gay, bisexual, and transgender people from getting fired from their jobs and kicked out of their housing simply because of their sexual orientation and gender identity or expression. Eighty percent of Pennsylvanian's live in areas where there are no local laws that protect against such discrimination, and every year our legal clinic receives hundreds of calls from nearly every county in Pennsylvania to report this type of discrimination. Last session, Representative Babette Josephs (Philadelphia), Chair of the State Government Committee, held public hearings across the state on this bill, and heard from victims of discrimination, people of faith, business leaders, and others who strongly support this bill. Over the years, the groundwork has been laid and public support garnered to pass this legislation that will directly impact the lives of thousands across Pennsylvania.

But to pass this bill, we all need to stand up, speak out, and let our voices be heard. Gay, straight, bi, lesbian, trans, queer, allied folk-- however you identify-- need to collectively speak with one voice and demand these basic protections. Recent polling shows broad-based overwhelming support across every demographic group and geographic region across the state, yet a vocal minority has time and again been able to thwart the popular will, and basic fairness.

Upon this bill's introduction this session, LGBT and allied Pennsylvanians need to speak out for our brothers and sisters for which the passage of this legislation would have a tremendous impact on their daily lives. Written here, many times before, has been a call to contact your legislators. The impact of these phone calls and visits are large and consequential - every constituent who calls their legislator truly has a major impact on the livelihood of thousands of people in Pennsylvania. To find your legislator and get their contact information, just visit **http://equalitypa.org.** Individually every one of us can make a difference, and collectively we can demonstrate the breadth and power of our support. On March 17, 2009, we will gather in the Capitol Rotunda in Harrisburg to speak together, in one voice, to pass this legislation. Buses will leave from both Philadelphia and Pittsburgh, and hundreds will gather in the halls of power to demand fairness and equality. Lobby training and a free lunch will be provided at 11:30 AM, tentatively at St. Michael's Lutheran Church, We will then move into the Capitol Rotunda to rally at 1:00 PM. More information can also be found at **http://equalitypa.org**.

Amy Balliet gained national attention when, after the passage of Proposition 8, she created a website, JointheImpact, and mobilized millions of LGBT and allied people in nearly every major American city to speak out, and stand up for equality. I went to high school with Amy, and spoke with her after the rallies. She was humbled by the power of her voice; one voice.

Collectively in Pennsylvania, speaking with one voice, we can all make a tremendous impact and pass legislation to protect LGBT people against discrimination. Join us on March 17, 2009, and let our voices resonate through the halls of the Capitol. Speak out, stand up, and help us Rock the Dome on March 17!

Harrisburg's Freedom to Marry Rally!!!

February 11th, Front & Market Streets

Many people came and went, and many horns honked in support of equality in marriage. Between 4:30 and 5:30, over 100 people were consistently counted.

North West Corner
included Stonewall Democrats, Equality Advocates, E-Town GSA and Vision of Hope MCC.

South West Corner
Included several GSAs, and members from Hbg Pride Fest and the Central PA Womyn's Chorus.

North East Corner
Rev. Eva O'Diam walks toward the camera during her last month as the Pastor of MCC of the Spirit. Staff for Rep. Babbette Joseph's are behind her. Members of both Lancaster and Reading Pride are to the left.

South East Corner
was made up of mostly Unitarians and News Crews. Members of other organizations such as Friends of Dan Miller were represented.

The rally lasted into the dark when Alanna and Bolton thanked everybody, said they'd see all next year, and bid everybody a good night.

After the rally, several groups met at Brownstone Lounge to discuss plans for the St. Patty's Rally and Lobby Day.

Drag Queen & King Crossword

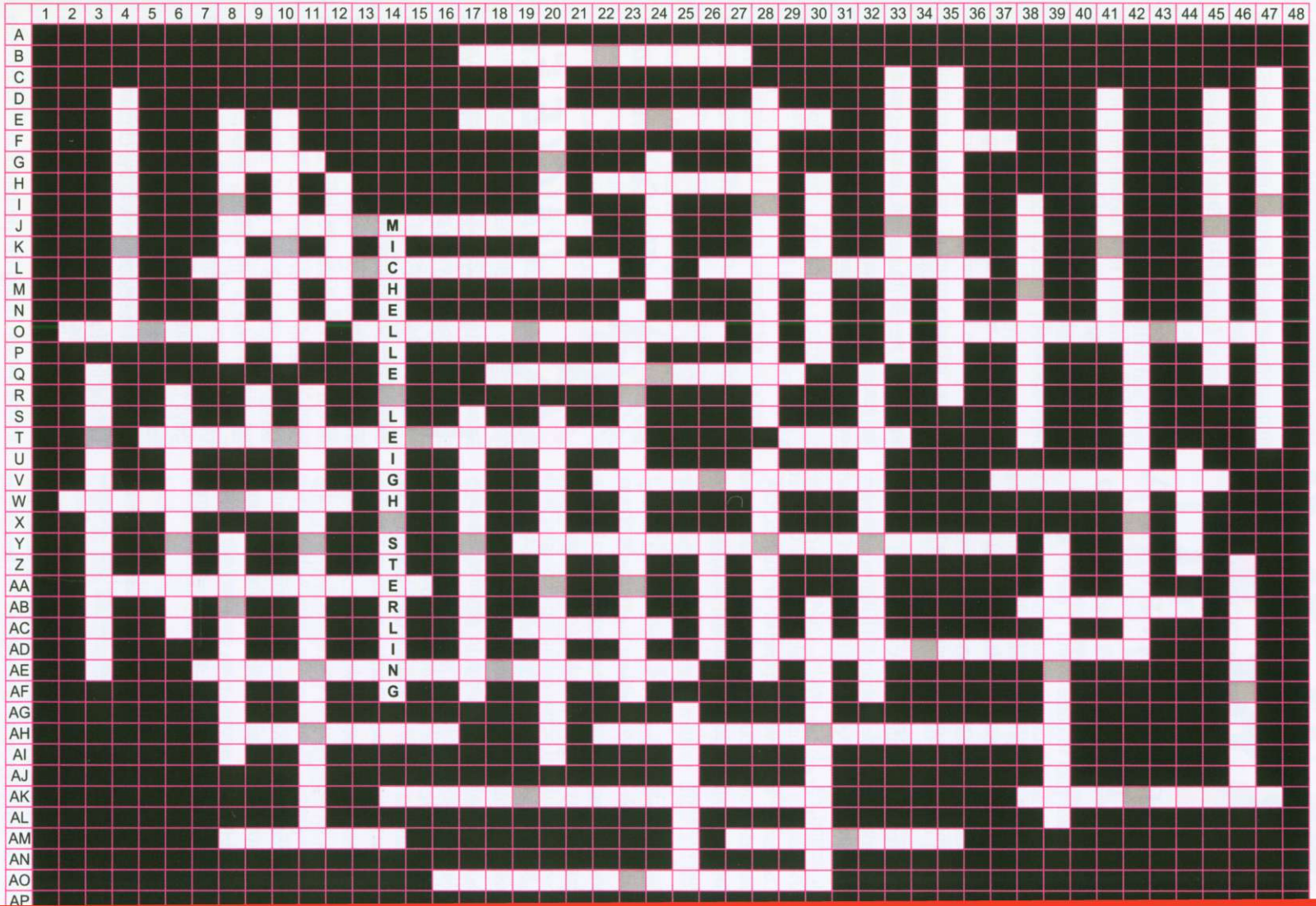
B 17	Retired in Strawberry 4th Color in Rainbow Flag	i36p14
B 20	MDAS Wyoming Valley	i34p26
C 33	Miss Rising Star, 2007 Reading Latin Spitfire	i4p1
C 35	Miss Club XS: 2007-2008 Jeweled Sister	i37p36
C 47	Queen of Winter HeARTS 2009 XS Trailor Trash	i34p13
D 4	EYO You'll want more	i25p9
D 28	Reigning Miss PA Supposedly Author	i29p4
D 41 D	Miss Harrisburg 1996 Shark _ _ _N	i24p15
D 45	MDAS Hbg 2008 Booze Family	i35p32
E 8	Bad Credit	i25p9
E 10	Lost 2008-2009 CCs Crown Hard Metal	i28p9
E 17	Lord of fire or speed	i35p32
F 35	King Pride	i30p4
G 8	Oklahoma to Wilkes-Barre Shines in the night sky	i34p26
G 24	Panzee's 1st Cover Girl Eatable	i37p40
H 12	Reigning LV Pride	i31p26
H 22	Reigning Miss Lancaster Pride Coincidentally, Big fake boobs	i35p32
H 30	Queen of LV Pride 2005 5th Month	i31p26
I 38	Bewitched Daughter Not a Gentleman	i32p25
J 8	Miss Harrisburg 1st Alt 2008 Deceased Princess of Whales	i24p15
J 14	PA Owner	i26p10

L 7	Maryland 2007 Gerneral Hospital aristocratic family	i25p9
L 26	Big Benefit Driver Pride Tours	i26p2
N 23	MDAS North East but might get booted	i26p24
O 2	EOY 1st Alt 2006-2007; Ohio Imbalanced in the head	i25p9
O 13	Miss Harrisburg 2008	i24p15
O 35	Lehigh Valley Sisterhood Miss Allentown 2008	i28p11
O 42	Miss Ctr PA American Illusion. Amie's Sister	i35p32
Q 3	No competitions; Evil tear down	i36p16
Q 18	Reigning EOY Light in night sky	i25p9
Q 32	Heart Alternate Tinky Winky	i26p10
R 6	Dr. Violinyst Miss PA United America 2006	i25p9
R 9	Designer Look up when you're outside	i36p16
R 11	Miss Allentown Tongue Twisting Name	i24p15
S 17	Miss Gay Reading America 2002 White Italian	i35p32
S 20	MDAS Reading 1st Alt; high value	i34p26
T 5	Miss PA America 2006 She Can Report	i22p1
T 29	Drag King; CCs	I32P25
U 28	Reigning Mr. CCs	i33p8
U 44	Mr. CCs 2007-2008	i32p25
V 22	Retired in Strawberry Light in night sky	i29p4
V 37	Mr. Rachael A turn on for most men	i32p25

W 2	Duel Pageant Winner Dorathy's Daughter	i35p32
Y 8	Harrisburg w/o appostrophy	i25p9
Y 19	North East PA 2008	i28p10
Y 26	Reigning Miss Club XS Snake Bite	i37p36
Y 39	Jewed sister	i37p36
Z 46	Hbg Miss Pride 2008	i30p4
AA 3	She ate the whole thing	i29p9
AB 30	MDAS Queen Bitch	i35p32
AB 38	Caribbean Island	i34p13
AC 19	Drag King	i32p25
AD 28	Hbg Miss Pride 2007 Michelle's Sister	i28p8
AE 7	MDAS Trophy Wife	i35p32
AG 25	Latino Liquid Staff	i26p10
AH 8	Miss Reading Pride 2008	i35p32
AH 22	Reigning Miss CCs	i38p35
AK 14	Vampire Motif	i35p32
AK 38	Queen of LV Pride	i31p26
AM 8	King LV Pride	i31p26
AM 27	Honestly the Best	i26p10
AO 16	Miss PA America 2007 Stiff drink	i26p10

Find your favourite drag queens, in and around Central Pennsylvania.
Grey boxes are spaces within their names

The notation iXXpXX represenets the issue number and page within Panzee that featured the king or queen.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TC PA

TransCentralPA

A Big T Party

Please plan to come to our T party. Really… it'll be informative and fun, and when it's over you'll probably really "get" what being transgender is all about, and you'll probably be even more confused, too. The Trans dilemma is like the proverbial can of worms…come find out why.

The Keystone Conference: A Celebration of Gender Diversity at the Sheraton Harrisburg-Hershey on March 12-14, 2009 is the first event of its kind in central PA. It's a gender conference, modeled after the big national ones, like Southern Comfort Conference held every September in Atlanta, GA, that draws over 1,000 people. We're smaller, and focusing on the regional population- both presenters and attendees.

Saturday is dedicated to a series of at least twenty-two workshops and seminars, starting at 9:00AM, and covering a broad range of topics related to gender diversity and transgender issues. Many noted professionals will be presenting topics ranging from the challenges faced by Trans youth to the most recent medical evidence showing that gender identity is developed in utero prior to physical sexuality. We have nationally known speakers Mara Keisling- a Harrisburg native and now executive director of the National Center for Transgender Equality- and Donna Rose- author, Trans activist and former member of the board of the Human Rights Campaign- as keynote speakers for our lunch and dinner programs. Please see the event website www.transcentralpa.org/Keystone_home for more information on our program of speakers and workshops. You'll note that special rates are available for students, for whom we have an entire seminar/workshop series.

Now, about the party part! I mentioned above the words "lunch" and "dinner" during the Saturday program…please know that our food at the lovely Sheraton Harrisburg-Hershey is prepared under the supervision of PA Iron Chef winner James Batterson…so prepare to be delighted in the culinary realm. Wear your evening clothes and dancing shoes Saturday night: following a cocktail reception outside the Commonwealth Ballroom and our elegant dinner there, we'll be having a dance till the wee hours, as well as an open bar and a shuttle bus next door to Liquid 891. Should you want more, the Trans-social events actually begin Thursday evening with dinner and fun at the Hollywood Casino, and follow Friday night with dinner on Harrisburg's Restaurant Row and clubbing at our local "family" night spots. A shuttle bus is provided both nights for registered event attendees staying at the Sheraton hotel.

This is an event for all that have any interest in or connection to the Transgender community…which, I hope, includes many of you who are readers of this journal and members of the GLBT community of Central Pennsylvania. Please come, please participate, and please help support the growth and acceptance of your Trans family.

Jeanine Russel
President
TransCentralPA
www.transcentralpa.org

The Commentary of UNCLE ED

Until a few days ago, I had no idea what I was going to write about for this issue of the Panzee Press. I had even told Bolton that I was going to stay away from Obama. BUT, that all changed when it came to light that six out of the fifteen persons Obama nominated for his cabinet seem to have an issue with owing back taxes. Now, before you get to thinking that this is another one of my articles smearing Obama, guess again. This time I actually feel sorry for the guy! I, just like many others of you, know it is easy to forget when we have not fulfilled an obligation. Let's take a little closer look at the circumstances. Let me use Tom Daschle as an example. When it comes time for you to have your taxes prepared, it is customary to provide all pertinent information to the person doing the preparation. I could see

leaving out a few receipts for clothing, or maybe a month or two of copies for your cell phone bill, but how can you forget to report the limousine and its driver that carts your ass all around Washington each day for the 365 days that are in the year? Some would defend him by saying "It could have been just an oversight." I would think that as a nominee, somewhere in the venture of filling out the one hundred and thirty six page questionnaire, you would be sure there are no hidden skeletons in your closet; that just possibly you would have your financial records reviewed once again for that "just in case" possibility.

I could have lived with just one of the fifteen nominees being booted, but six of fifteen having tax issues? Even with Tim Geitner, having owed just shy of $60,000 in back taxes, but still getting the Senate confirmation, I am still in doubt that all is well in DC. My doubt would turn to admiration for Obama if he would order a tax audit for all government workers in Washington, and it would start at the top with Obama himself. Obama wants all of us to trust him, and for me this would be a good start. He would be showing us all that Washington is just as accountable as the rest of the nation. Will it happen? In all likelihood, probably not.

FYI: On March 5th, the California state Supreme Court will hear oral arguments as to whether Prop 8 is unconstitutional. Ken Starr (yup, this name should ring a bell to so many Americans) will be speaking on behalf of the state, with several other lawyers speaking on behalf of GLBT defendants. A decision is expected within 90 days of closing arguments. This matter of Prop 8 has accelerated into the higher courts faster than I would have ever imagined. This is a very important time for not only the GLBT communities of California, but also for all of us nationwide. The decision that will come from the highest courts in California will decide how our communities will progress towards achieving the equality of heterosexuals. I encourage you to visit couragecampaign.org/divorce to learn more about March 5th and what you can do to take part in supporting the GLBT communities of California.

LGBT center coalition

Club XS Offers Fun and the Community Benefits with Wednesday Night Bingo

If you don't already know about Bingo at Club XS, then you've been missing out on a ton of fun. Every Wednesday night at 7:00 p.m. you can win cash prizes while simultaneously benefitting Common Roads. Organizer Greg King quips that "this is not your grandma's Bingo," pointing to the animated callers, good music and creative intermission games as proof.

Intermission has featured such game show parodies as Are You Smarter than a Drag Queen? and Let's Make a Deal, and currently features crowd favorite Queen for a Day. Participants write their name on a piece of paper and put it in a jar, and one is chosen to come on stage and be Queen for a Day – only in this case, it's Drag Queen for the Night! The lucky winner gets assigned a drag name and gets to pick an outfit from Club XS's special drag coat rack. They then select a random response card indicating the performance they must give to the crowd, which will decide if it was worthy of the up to $100 cash prize. The crowd is encouraged to call the Queen by her new drag name for the rest of the evening. Also, the Club's music selection should not be overlooked, as it features everything from hip, contemporary dance hits to themed music nights, like the recent 70's night.

Bingo presents a relatively inexpensive night out. A twelve-on sheet of Bingo costs

$16 for twenty games, and an eighteen-on sheet costs $22. You can never arrive too late to join in; at intermission, buy in for ten games for $10 and $14, respectively. The more participants, the bigger the prizes, so get a group of friends together for this weekly gathering!

Club XS is located at 36 West 11th Avenue, York. Contact them by phone at 717-846-6969, email at clubxs@gmail.com, or visit their website, www.clubxsyork.com to find out more about the Club and Bingo night.

Volunteers make this great event run, and there are always opportunities for more folks to help out. If you'd like to get involved by setting up, tearing down, entertaining the crowd by calling out numbers, or another of the many tasks that go into making this event successful, please email Louie at lmarven@centralpalgbtcenter.org. Bingo proceeds benefit Common Roads, which provides advocacy, services and support for LGBT youth throughout Central Pennsylvania as the service arm of the LGBT Community Center Coalition. Visit www.centralpalgbtcenter.org for more information on the Center.

COMMON ROADS

Working to support lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgendered and questioning youth in central Pennsylvania

Deb Bixler

Gluten Free Diet with Whole Foods

We all need vitamins, minerals and fiber in our diets. Gluten-free diets are no exception. With more and more people going gluten-free to prevent a wide variety of ailments, including ADD, ADHD, celiac disease, sinus issues and others, it is important to remember that gluten-free must be whole foods, too. Most people who convert to the gluten-free lifestyle are so focused on being gluten-free that they forget that they need whole food and/or grain to give them good nutrition and plenty of fiber. Just switching to gluten-free is not good enough. Refined gluten-free foods are readily available at almost any health food store. The whole-grain counterparts of these gluten-free products take a little more effort to find. Just because you eat gluten-free does not mean you should be whole-grain-free and eating all refined foods!

Most gluten-free diets center on rice. Specifically, white rice is the majority of the diet from mixes and breads to convenient gluten-free products. White rice is nothing but sugar and man-made vitamins. Brown rice and wild rice products are the only whole grain rices available. When you are looking for gluten-free products, go to the ingredient list and find whole-grain rice products. There are plenty of them, and just like their gluten-laden counterparts, you need to check the ingredients list to find good-for-you foods. The ingredients list should say whole grain rice, brown rice or wild rice. Try to find foods with a minimum of sugars and refined grains, and only accept ingredients that you recognize.

Other Gluten Free Whole Foods:

•Legumes are gluten-free and a rich source of nutrients.

•Flax and flaxseed flours are high in omega 3 oils.

•Quinoa is an old world grain that is gluten-free and includes all the essential amino acids.

•Nuts are often used as flours and are a good source of fiber and nutrients.

•Buckwheat, contrary to its name, is not wheat, and is gluten-free.

•Amaranth has a unique flavor and is a grain that is gluten-free and high in protein.

•Corn is gluten-free and always whole grain.

Don't lose sight of whole food choices in your quest for a gluten-free diet. There are plenty of gluten-free, high-fiber and nutrient-dense foods that will enhance any diet.

Deb teaches gluten-free cooking and cooking classes. Contact her for more information on gluten-free whole food education.

DebBixler.com

www.WowYouAreReallyLucky.com

Gayly Forward

"When Giving It To You Straight Just Won't Do"

Help with my Very Gay Sister? Firstly, I'm NOT Gay Bashing. I'm NOT Homophobic. It is just that myself and others in our family and some of my sister's friends have a big problem with my sister. Okay she is Gay. Okay she is Out, Loud and Proud.

What I and many others do NOT get is why she has to make most everything a Gay Issue. Meaning she can hardly order at McDonalds, without the cashier and others knowing that she is gay and out and proud. Sorry I don't get that. So she is gay and out, why can't she just order her food and not make an issue? Why can't she go buy gas, without a Pride march having to break out? So why does you think she needs to be so out and make so many things a gay issue?

-Gay Sister's Brother

Dear Brother,

I'm glad you're not a gay basher or a homophobe. Well, really I'm not that happy, because if you were to admit to it then responding to your question would be oh, so much easier. However, I must take you at your word, and just assume you are misguided or misdirected, or just plain missing the point.

You state that you aren't something socially negative, but then you go on to say that you have a big problem with your sister. You pull in other family members, and even your sister's friends, very much in a "see, it's not just me" manner to prove that this issue is indeed with your sister, and not with your perception of her. Then you go on to concede: Okay, she is Gay (I like the use of the capital G in Gay. Makes it very important, and very pertinent. She's not just gay, but, rather, Gay. Seriously gay, if you will.) She's Out, Loud, and Proud. Good usage of a phrase coined by the GLBT community. It shows that while you are embarrassed by her, you are also aware of where her behavior may come from.

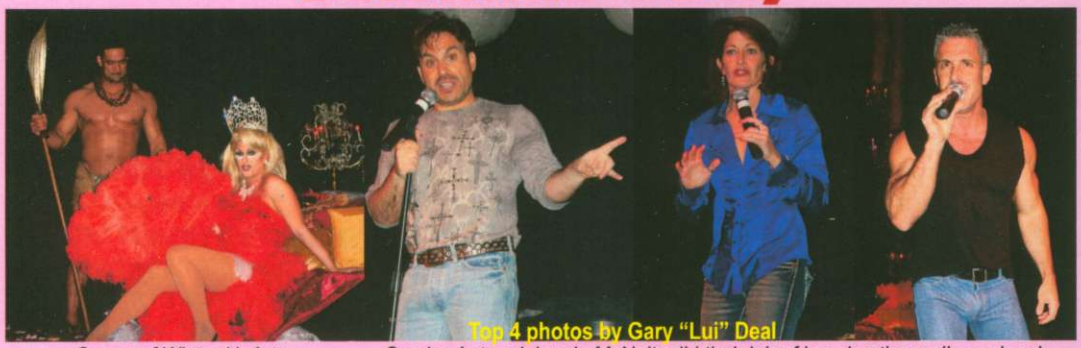
Right now she needs to make everything a gay issue, and that definitely embarrasses you and your family/friends posse. There are many reasons for that. 1. She could be newly out, and is being defensive about it, daring just about anyone to put her back in the closet. 2. She's not so newly out, but has experienced things that make her want to continue daring anyone to put her back in the closet (hmmm, could be your posse has a hand in that.) 3. She wants to lead by example. If people don't know someone is gay, then they won't have a face to put on those they inadvertently, or advertently, discriminate against. 4. She likes the reactions she's getting from her behavior. 5. This is her. Whether it is in reference to her sexuality or something else, you can probably point to her behavior being over the top. 6. This is mostly her. She's trying on a new identity, coming to know herself, and will find herself in time.

Please keep in mind that for your sister, so many things ARE a gay issue, just as so many things are a straight issue for you. The general public, as well as family and friends, assumes one is straight unless told otherwise. Your sister is not content to let that assumption stand.

Perhaps in time, and with complete acceptance for who she is by you, family members, and friends, she won't feel the need to be so Out, Loud and Proud. Support her, let her know you love her, let her know you accept who she is, warts and all, and she'll find her own comfort zone.

-GF

Winter HeARTS Ball, Club XS, Valentine´s Day



Queen of Winter HeArts, Kalina Kirkpatrick raised $2100 for the Central PA LGBT Center Coalition. Brook stands behind her.

Comics Ant and Jennie McNulty did their job of keeping the audience laughing. Both interacted, kept the jokes coming, and worked 50% improv. As for the singer Colton Ford… well he does look good.

Common Roads' Greg King and Miss Club XS, Poison, draw for the raffle.

Hbg Pride Festival board members Jeffrey Clouser, Tammy Cassel and Diana Kuhns in the foreground as the silent auction is underway behind them.

Glenda, Vyktoria, Kalina and Whitley raised a total of $4657

Rob & Shana

Luke, Jack, Tim & Gerry

Becker, Bill, Stan & Bernie

Ben, Michael & Ernie

PRIDE PRO WRESTLING

INAUGURAL EVENT
Club XS and Bottom Rope Productions Present:

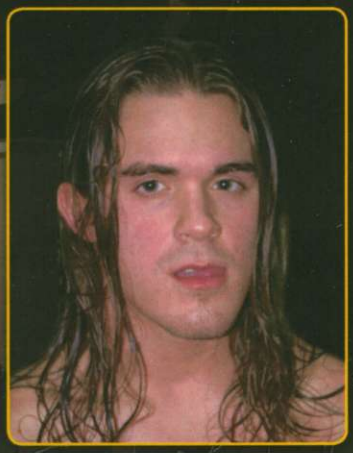
XS VIOLENCE

Saturday, March 28th
Bell Time: 9:00 PM

$50 VIP Tickets (includes buffet, preferred seating and 1 drink)
$35 Ring-Side Seats
$15 General Admission
Call 717-846-6969 to order tickets

6 Big Matches!

Starring:
Jordan Winters
Eddie Valentine
Rick Feinberg
The Penetrator
And Many More!



CLUB XS

36 West 11th Avenue • York, PA 17404
717-846-6969 • clubxs@gmail.com
www.clubxsyork.com
www.prideprowrestling.com

BGLQT Listings for South Central Pennsylvania

BARS

Harrisburg

Brownstone Lounge
412 Forster St.
(717) 234-7009
M-F: 11a-2a
S,S: 5p-2a
Brownstone
^Lounge.com

Liquid 891
891 Eisenhower
(717) 939-3590
Thu 5p-Midnight
Fri, Sat 5p-2a
Sun 11a-Midnight
Liquid891.com

Neptune's Lounge
268 North St.
(717) 233-0581
Every Day: 5p-2a

Stallions
716 N. 3rd St.
(717) 232-3060
Daily: 7p-2a
StallionsClub.com

704 Strawberry Café
714 N. 3rd St.
(717) 234-4228
Daily: 4p-2a

Sunbury

CCs
555 Klinger Rd.
(570) 286-6022
Thu, Fri, Sat: 8p-2a
Sun: 3:00p - ?
MySpace:
^OfficialCCsBar

York

Club XS
36 West 11th Ave
(717) 846-6969
Daily: 4p - 2a
ClubXSYork.com

Lancaster

The Tally Ho
201 W. Orange St.
(717) 299-0661
Daily: 8p - 2a

Sundown Lounge
429 N. Mulberry St.
Lancaster, PA

Belvedere Inn
402 N. Queen St.
Lancaster, PA
(717) 394-2422
BelvedereInn.biz

Spring Grove

Altland's Ranch
8505 Orchard Rd.
(717) 225-4479
Fri,Sat 8p-2a
AltlandsRanch.com

Reading

Red Star Saloon
11 S. 10th. St.
(610) 375-4116
Wed-Sat: 9p-2a

NoFee Event Listings

Panzee@ PanzeePress .com

Political

Stonewall Dmcrats
CapitalStonewall.org

Rainbow EqUUalitiy Advocates
Lay Led Ministry of the Unitarian Church of Hbg
AlannaBerger@ Hotmail.com

PRIDE

Pride CP
Pride Festival of Central PA
Harrisburg
^Pride.org

Lancaster Pride
LancasterPride
^2008.org

Reading Pride
ReadingPride
^Celebration.com

PAGEANT

Miss Drag All-Star
(610) 573-8315
MissDrag
^AllStar.com

Miss Gay America
MissGay
^America.com

BUSINESS

Central PA Gay & Lesbian Chamber of Commerce
3111 N. Front St
Harrisburg, PA 17110
(717) 213-5034
CPGLCC.org

SPIRITUAL

MCC: Metropolitan Community Church
MCCotS
2973 Jefferson St.
Harrisburg, PA 17110
(717) 236-7387
MCCofTheSpirit.org

Vision of Hope MCC
130 East Main St.
(VOH-MCC)
Mountville, PA 17554
(717) 285-9070
visionofhopemcc.org

UCH: Unitarian Chch of Harrisburg
1280 Clover Lane
Harrisburg, PA 17113
(717) 564-4761
HarrisburgUU.org

Unitarian Universal. of Lancaster (UUCL)
538 W. Chestnut St.
Lancaster, PA 17603
(717) 393-1733
interweave.lancaster
^pa@gmail.com

Unitarian Universal. of Gettysburg
136 S. Statton St.
Gettysburg, PA
(717) 334-2929
uugettysburg.org

HEALTH

ACA: AIDS Community Alliance of S. Central PA
401 Division St #100
Harrisurg, PA 17110
(800) 867-1550
ACA-PA.com

Caring Together (CarTog)
HIV Care Collaboration
(717) 851-3643
familyfirsthealth
^.org/ctprogram.htm

Lambda AA
Gay & Lesbian AA Friends Meeting House
6th and Herr St
Harrisburg
Jim H. 717-379-3828

HIV Support
Mulberry Art Stud.
21 N. Mulberry St.
Lancaster. Chris
(717) 397-0370

SOCIAL

Volley Ball
Baughman Memorial
United Methodist
New Cumberland
Jim Akers
717-233-3172

PA Womens Circle
PAWomens
^Circle.com

Pennsmen
Pennsmen.org

TransCentralPA
transcentralpa.org
@MCC of the Spirit

Renaissance of South Eastern PA (ROSE)
(717) 332-1247
130 Main Steet
Mountville, PA
RenaissanceSEPa
^@AOL.com

Rainbow Bowling League
ABC East Lanes
1001 Eisenhower
Harrisburg, PA
(717) 877-2659

Reading Railmen
www.reading
^Railmen.com

Gentelmen of Berks and Beyond (GOBAB)
GOBAB.org

COMMUNITY

LGBT Center Coalition
200 North 3rd St
8th Floor
P.O.Box 678
Harrisburg
PA 17108
CentralPaLgbt
Center.org

Rainbow Rose Community
(717) 380-1071
@Rainbow Pet Creations
305 N. Queen St.
Lancaster
RainbowRose
^Community.org

YOUTH

Common Roads
CmmnRds Hbg
221 N. Front Street
Harrisburg, PA

Common Roads
CmmnRds Lanc.
538 W. Chestnut St.
Lancaster, PA 17403
(717) 920-9534
CommonRoads.org

S.A.L.E.
Student Advocating LGBTA Equality
Shippensburg
ship.edu/~msa
^SALE.htm

Penn State Capital Alliance
kma225@psu.edu
hbg.psu.edu/clubs/ capitalalliance/

Alvernia GSA
400 St. Bernardine St.
Reading, PA 19607
brou3391
^@alvernia.edu

Planned Parenthd of North East PA
SPECTRUM
LGBT Youth Spprt
48 South 4th St.
2nd Flr
Reading, PA
PPNEP.org

ENTERTAINMENT

Central PA Womyn's Chorus
CPWChorus.org

HBG Men's Chorus
HarrisburgMens
^Chorus.org

Art Assoc. HBG
21 N. Front Street
Harrisburg
717-236-1444
ArtAssoc
OfHbg.com

Meat Locker Art Gallery
923 N. third St.
Harrisburg, PA

3.12
ThreeTwelve.net

Arthouse Lounge
217 N. 2nd St.
Harrisburg, PA

BGLQT Calendar for Harrisburg, York, Lancaster and Reading

Panzee Calendar

MONDAYS

Club XS 9:30p
Wii Night

Neptune's
Free Pool & Buffet

CPWC 7:00p
Women's Chorus
Rehearsal
Colonial Park UCC

HBG Men's Chorus
7:00p Rehersal
Unitarian Church
of Harrisburg

Lambda AA 8:00pm
Meeting

TUESDAYS

Brownstone
Free Darts

Club XS Brianna's
Movie Night

Neptune's
Free Pool

Red Star 10:00pm
Trivia

Stallions 9:00pm
Trivia

MCCoftheSpirit 7p
Choir Rehearsal

VOH-MCC 7p
Joyful Noise Choir

WEDNESDAYS

Club XS Cash Bingo
Common Roads
Benefit

Neptune's
Free Pool & Buffet

Stallions 9:00pm
Karaoke

Strawberry 7:30p
Bingo

MCCotS 7:00p
Bible Study

Volley Ball 7:00p
Volley Ball $3

THURSDAYS

Club XS
College Night 18+

Liquid 891 8:00p
Bingo

Stallions
Industry Apprcn Night

Strawberry 9:30p
Karaoke

MCCoftheSpirit 7p
Praise Team

MCCoftheSpirit
Prayer Group Home
of Fern & Laura

VOH-MCC 8:00 p
AA Meeting

Penn State Capital
Alliance / Mddltwn
Weekly Meeting 5p
Library Room 302

FRIDAYS

Liquid 891 5:00p
Hot Flash Fridays
For Women of the
70's, 80's , and 90's

ArtHouse Lounge
3:00 PM
SOEX Exhibition

Common Roads 7p
@UUC of Lanc.
Safe Space for youth

Lambda AA
8:00pm Meeting

SATURDAYS

Brownstone
Bear Night with
Woolfish Capital
City Bears

Stallions
Ladies Night
in Twin Peaks Bar

ArtHouse Lounge
3:00 PM
SOEX Exhibition

SUNDAYS

Club XS 10:00pm
Sin Night
(Service Industry)
and Karaoke

Liquid 891 11:00 am
Brunch

Stallions
Sizzling Singles Night

MCCoftheSpirit
Service
9am, 10:30 am, 7pm

UCH Service
9:15am, 11:00 am

VOH-MCC 10:00am
Sunday worship

Wed Mar 4

HIV Support
6:00 PM 1st Wed.

Fri Mar 6

Club XS 8p 1st Fri.
Leather/Bear
Dance Party

Altland's Ranch
Slow Dance Every
Hour 1st Fri.

Common Roads 7p
@First Friday
Harrisburg 1st Fri

Common Roads 7p
@First Friday
Lancaster 1st Fri.

Sat Mar 7

Transcentral 6p
email for location

Transcentral 8:30p
Monthly Meeting
MCCoftheSpirit

Sun Mar 8

VOH-MCC noon
Jubilation
Praise Team 2nd Sun.

Pennsmen 4p
@Neptunes
Meeting 2nd Sun

Mon Mar 9

MCCofthe Spirit 6:30a
Sharing Our Caring
Dinner 2nd Mon.

MCCofthe Spirit 5p
AIDS Consumers
Group 2nd Mon

MCCoftheSpirit 6:30p
Sharing Our Caring
Dinner

Stonewall Dems
6p 2nd Mon
@1502 Green Street
Monthly Meeting
Montly New Location

Thu Mar 12

MCCofthe Spirit
6:00 PM 2nd Thu
Grief/Loss Support

Rainbow Rose 7p
Meeting 2nd Thu

Fri Mar 13

Liquid 891 5:30pm
Women Interested
In Networking (WIN)

Club XS 9p 2nd Fri.
Swingers Meet &
Greet until Close

Club XS 9:00pm
Miss Gay York
America Pageant

Club XS 10:30p 2nd Fri
Ms Biscuit and her
Double D's Drag Shw

Altland's Ranch
2nd Fri.
Beer & Free Pizza

ROSE Transgender
Meeting 8p 2nd Fri.

Transcentral
@Sheraton Hbg
Keystone Confrnce

Pride Show Tour
@Liquid 891
Dame Glenda & Co.

Common Roads 7p
LGBT History
Harrisburg

Common Roads 7p
See TransAmerica
Lancaster

Sat Mar 14

Liquid 891 9p
New Experience Bnd

Transcentral
@Sheraton Hbg
KeystoneConfrnce

Mon Mar 16

CPGLCC
6:30 pm 3rd Mon.
Board of Directors
3211 N. Front Street

Reading Pride 7:30p
@Canal St. Rest.
General Meeting

Tue Mar 17

Pridefest of C PA
5:00 PM
High Heel Race
@ All Hbg Bars

Wed Mar 18

MCC of the Spirit
6:00 PM 3rd Wed.
Board Meeting

MCC of the Spirit
7:00pm 3rd Wed.
Pastoral Care
Meeting

HIV Support
6:00pm 3rd Wed.
Mulberry Art Stud
21 N. Mulberry St
Lancaster. Chris
(717) 397-0370

Fri Mar 20

Club XS 9pm 3rd Fri.
Swingers; Club Sexy
Cool; Meet & Greet

Liquid 891 10p
891 Divas
Drag Show

Altland's Ranch
Country Line
Dancing 3rd Fri.

Common Roads 7p
LGBT History
Harrisburg

Common Roads 7p
Game Night
Lancaster

Sat Mar 21

Liquid 891 10p
NYC Dance Party

Brownstone 3rd Sat.
Bear Night

MCC of the Spirit
1pm 3rd Sat. Bingo

HMC 2:00pm
@Ctr Perf Arts
6th and Hurlock St.
Concert

Thu Mar 26

Pride Show Tours
@Stallions
Dame Glenda & Co.

ACA-PA
6:30 PM
Bowles & Berries
Rector Science Ctr
College+Louther Sts
Dickinson College
Carlisle, PA

Sun Mar 22

Club XS 6p 4th Sun.
Black, Blue & Bears

VOH-MCC 11a 4th Sun.
HIV/AIDS
Support Group

VOH-MCC noon
Jubilation
Praise Team 4th Sun.

LGBT Center Coal
3:00 PM
@Strand in York
Screening of MILK

Mon Mar 23

VOH-MCC 11a 4th Mon.
HIV/AIDS Support

Tue Mar 24

Pride CP
7:30 PM 4thWeek
Parade Meeting

Pride Show Tours
Dawg Hause
Dame Glenda & Co.

BGLQT Calendar for Harrisburg, York, Lancaster and Reading

Fri Mar 27	Sat Mar 28	Sun Mar 29	Fri Apr 3	Sun Apr 5
Liquid 891 9p Julie Schurr Band	Club XS 9p Pride Pro Wrestling	3.12 church service Unity Church of Harrisburg 10:30a	Club XS 8p 1st Fri. Leather/Bear	Club XS 4p 1st Sun. Ladies Tea Dance
Altland's Ranch 4th Fri. Karaoke	XS Violence		Altland's Ranch 1st Fri Slow Dance Every	Drag King Contest Free Food, Pool
Club XS 4th Fri. Ladies Night (only) Rooms/Dancefloor	Liquid 891 4th Sat. Free Emergency Personel Admission	Tue Mar 31		VOH-MCC 5p 1st Sun. Men's Group
MCC of the Spirit Scrabble 7p Last Fri.	MCC of the Spirit Pinnochle 7p Last Sat.	Lancaster Pride Support Pride Night @ Isaac's Last Tue.	Sat Apr 4 Transcentral 6p Dinner email for info	Reading Pride 1p @Suburban Tavern Suds on Sunday
Common Roads 7p @Coliseum Harrisburg	Reading Pride 10:30p @Red Star Date Auction	Wed Apr 1 HIV Support 6:00 PM 1st Wed.	Transcentral 8:30p Monthly Meeting Pride Show Tours @Club Z	

Upcoming Panzee Coverage:

Keystone Conference
Fri & Sat, March 13th & 14th
Sheraton Harrisburg

Rock the Dome Lobby & Rally
Tuesday March 17th.
11:30 St. Michael's Lutheran Church
118 State St., Harrisburg
Lunch Provided by Bolton & Jamie
Drinks Provided by Stonewall Democrats and Pepsi
1:00 Lobby of State Capitol (Rotunda)

Green High Heel Race
Tuesday March 17th.
6:00 pm All Harrisburg Gay Bars

Pride Pro Westling
Saturday, March 28th
9:00pm Club XS

Pride Show Tour
Thursday, March 26
Dame Glenda & CO.
@Stallions

Easter Bonnet Contest
Sunday April 12th
@Neptunes

Orlando Gay Days
June 2nd - June 8th

Panzee Calendar

No Fee Event Listings
Panzee@PanzeePress.com

Art Association of Harrisburg

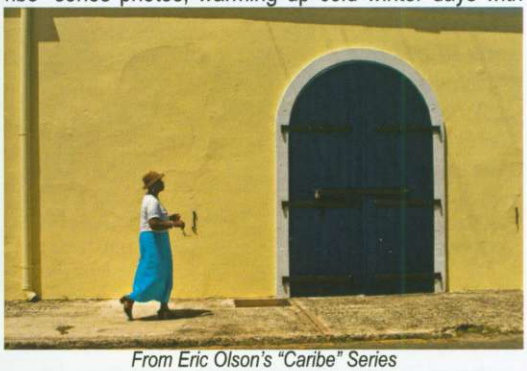
By Carrie Wissler-Thomas

The sheer number of artists in our area is growing by leaps and bounds! Hard evidence of this was demonstrated by the HUGE Winter Membership Exhibition at the Art Association of Harrisburg in January and February, with its 180 entries! AAH Curator Terrie Hosey had to actually suspend paintings from window frames because she ran out of wall space. Many artists joined as AAH members simply in order to enter the show, which was very gratifying.

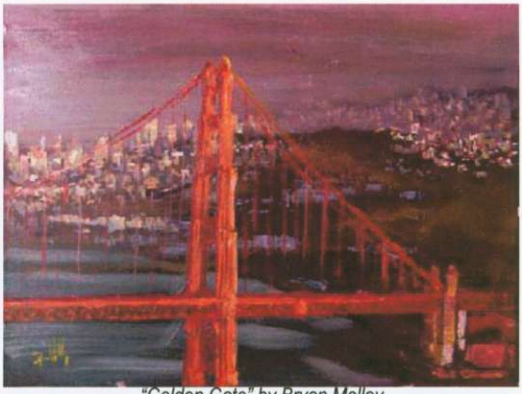
To accommodate all the talented artists who want to exhibit their work, AAH has identified two new Community Sites, and is seeking more. Community Exhibitions are now mounted regularly at Highmark Blue Shield, Reservoir Mansion, Penn National Insurance, Penn State Harrisburg, The Harrisburg Downtown Improvement District Visitors Centre, and now, Homeland Centre and Martin M. Sacks & Associates. AAH also presents an exhibition at Whitaker Centre for Science and the Arts each November through January.

This spring, AAH Community Exhibitions will include an eclectic array of styles, subjects and media. Bryan Molloy, AAH Gallery Assistant, will show his paintings and prints at Dauphin County Courthouse, Register of Wills, Recorder of Deeds offices, February through the end of April. At Reservoir Mansion, 100 Concert Drive, Danny Houston and Jo Ann Neal are displaying photographs and Afro-Centric collages through the end of March for the 17th Annual Black History Exhibition.

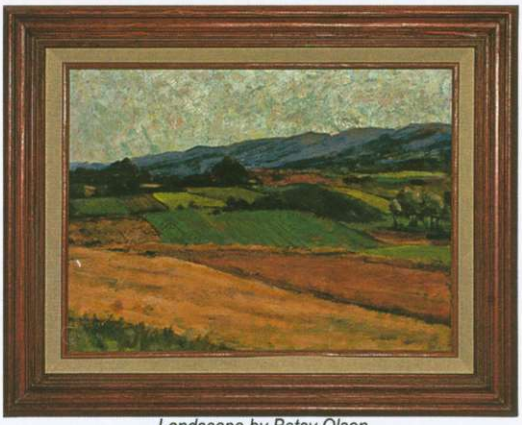
At Penn National Insurance, 2 North Second Street, through the end of April, Eric Olson will present his "Caribe" series photos, warming up cold winter days with colourful images taken in Caribbean locales. At Homeland Centre, 1901 North Fifth Street, Eric's artist mother Betsy Olson will display her oil landscapes, portraits and still lifes.



From Eric Olson's "Caribe" Series



"Golden Gate" by Bryan Molloy



Landscape by Betsy Olson

Rounding out the Community Shows for the spring are the exhibitions at Martin M. Sacks & Associates, 4775 Linglestown Road, where Earl Blust's oil landscapes are on view through the end of February, followed by plein air landscapes by David Henry, Colleen Brindamore, and John Capowski, from March 1 through the end of May.

The shows at Highmark Blue Shield are not open to the public.

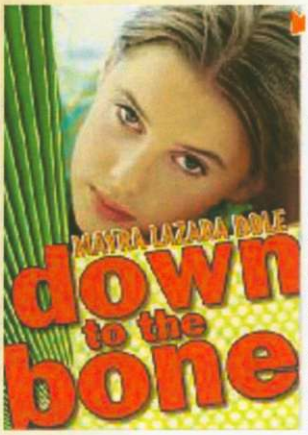
All the Community Sites pay the Art Association a monthly fee for the privilege of having art displayed on their walls, bringing exhibits to their employees and clients who may not have the opportunity to visit the main AAH galleries. Call the Art Association of Harrisburg at 717-236-1432 for more information.

Carrie Wissler-Thomas, President

Liz OUT Loud

by Liz Bradbury

A'Ja Lyons and I have been regularly reviewing GLBTA books in the Valley Gay Press for several years. At this time, A'Ja is the VGP's primary book reviewer, but we've also started a new project in which we both review the same book. It's an interesting undertaking because, though we are both lesbians who are interested in GLBT books, we approach and enjoy literature from different backgrounds, experiences, and points of view. You can see this series of reviews at the PA Diversity Network web site at www.padiversity.org - book reviews.



Down to the Bone

By Mayra Lazara Dole Harperteen
Review by A'Ja Lyons

Mayra Lazara Dole's novel, 'Down to the Bone,' is a creative and colorful work of fiction aimed at young adult readers, but has the potential to span generations. 'Down to the Bone' is the story of a Miami born Cuban teenager named Laura whose happy life and relationship with Marlena comes crashing down around her when everyone finds out about her secret love.

Laura finds herself homeless after her mother disowns her for not conforming to the societal norm of heterosexuality. Laura discovers not only the limits of her mother's conditional love, but about herself. She discovers not only about what it means to be a lesbian, but to be an out lesbian, to experience real love, and to receive it.

The protagonist is Cuban-American, but this book speaks to any lesbian of color who has faced judgment from family members, clergy, or so called friends. This book is an excellent resource for young lesbians who fear coming out or have had a difficult coming out.

I found the book to be not only humorous, but so soulful and refreshing. The colorful gay community rarely appeals to the people of color within it. This book does.

A'Ja Lyons is a writer and college student studying American Sign Language and literature. She is also the lead book reviewer for the Valley Gay Press newspaper, a program of PA Diversity Network - see more of her reviews at www.padiversity.org. She lives with the woman she loves in Houston, Texas where she is currently at work on a collection of short stories.

Down to the Bone

By Mayra Lazara Dole Harperteen
Review by Liz Bradbury

Written for young adults, this fast paced novel about a 17-year-old Cuban - American "tortillera," (the Cuban slang word for dyke) who gets caught in her Catholic school reading a love letter from her girlfriend, grips you from the first page and doesn't let you go. The main character, Laura, is not only thrown out of school but tossed out of the house by her mother, who says she can't love Laura unless she changes.

As Laura tries to conform, she experiences both the selfishness of those whose greatest fear is "what the neighbors will think," and the unconditional love of friends who accept her as she is. The author skillfully weaves messages of equality and civil rights through the narrative as Laura's insight into life and love matures.

This middle-aged Lesbian reviewer was impressed not only by the authenticity of the coming out part of this story -- one in four US gay and lesbian youth who come out to their partners are thrown out of their homes -- but by the texture of GLBT Latino youths' lives in Miami. There is even a Cuban slang dictionary in the back of the book.

Those of any age who read this book will gain a better understanding of the pressures of GLBT young adults, and will probably learn a bit about dealing with those pressures. "Down to the Bone" adroitly reaches an audience that has been previously ignored and brings this audience exactly the kind of story it seeks. Let's hope every school library carries a copy of this book.

Liz Bradbury has written over 300 published non-fiction essays, columns, and articles. She is the Executive Director of PA Diversity Network - a GLBT Advocacy organization and the publisher of the Valley Gay Press newspaper - see www.padiversity.org. She is also a published author. Her latest book, "Angel Food and Devil Dogs - A Maggie Gale Mystery," is on sale through www.boudicapublishing.com or Amazon. Liz lives with her partner of 20 years, Patricia Sullivan, in Allentown, PA

Making anger pay: Employment rights and civil liberties for all Pennsylvanians now

By state Rep. *Babette Josephs*

On Election Day 2008, America voted for change. But in California, Proposition 8, which sought to ban same-sex marriage, passed with 52 percent of the vote -- a major step backwards.

People are angry -- as they should be. All families deserve to be valued. No family is second-class. No individual should be forced to remain single. No child ought to be raised outside of marriage just because some adults are small-minded, biased and unfair. But not everyone in the LGBTQ community (or the straight community, for that matter) wants to marry. Same-sex marriage puts the pressure on -- sometimes where it is not wanted.

Being single, footloose, carefree and non-traditional has its fans (in both communities), but being discriminated against in the workplace sucks for everyone.

Those of us in Philadelphia, Pittsburgh, Erie County and in 11 other communities in the Commonwealth have recourse if we are denied a job, refused a promotion, evicted from our apartment or thrown out of public accommodation based on our sexual orientation, but the remaining 75 percent of the state's more than 12 million residents do not live with such protection.

Your rights should not depend on whether your town or county has decided to protect them. Every Pennsylvanian deserves this help.

Several of my colleagues and I worked diligently last session to correct this deficiency, but just as it was poised for committee action, anti-gay hysteria flared and the bill had to be withdrawn. My colleagues and I are again planning to introduce this bill (H.B. 300) in the hope of more positive results.

A majority of Pennsylvanians already know it is the right thing to do. A Susquehanna Polling and Research poll reported 86 percent of Pennsylvanians believe there should be workplace equality for lesbian, gay, bisexual and transgendered people; 84 percent supported laws prohibiting discrimination in housing; and 89 percent favored equal access to public accommodations.

It's also the smart thing to do for our economy. Twenty states – including Maryland, New Jersey and New York – already have laws that ban job discrimination based on sexual orientation. Twelve states, including New Jersey, have laws banning job discrimination based on gender identity. These states have a competitive advantage over Pennsylvania when it comes to attracting and retaining businesses and residents.

As the economy continues to decline and jobs are lost, we can and must do more to ensure equal employment rights for all Pennsylvanians, regardless of gender identity or sexual orientation. But elected officials cannot do it without you. Get active in organizations that protect civil liberties. Write the gay and straight press. Talk gay rights up with your neighbors, friends and family. Involve your church, synagogue, mosque or temple. As the 2009-10 legislative session begins in earnest, let's turn our anger over Prop 8 into making Pennsylvania a better place for everyone.

Josephs is chairwoman of the House State Government Committee, which reviews legislation on issues ranging from voting and elections to campaign finance reform, lobbyist disclosure and civil rights.

Editor's note: HB300 won't be official until March 7th, therefore, it will not be in the computer systems of your legislators until then. If you call your legislator before the 7th, please refer to HB1400 of the 2007/2008 session, and let them know that will be HB300 of the 2009/2010 session.

Giovanni Tastes

St Joseph's Pasta

March...that wonderful month when winter winds down, basketball madness takes hold, and we all enjoy partying with our friends on St. Joseph's Day. Don't know of St. Joseph's Day? Then you can join Viktor for that other Saint's Day celebration.

For many Italians, this holiday is larger than St. Patrick's Day or even Mardi Gras. In New Orleans, which was a major port of entry for Sicilian immigrants during the nineteenth century, the Feast of St. Joseph is a city wide event. The Italian population has groups which are similar to the many marching clubs and truck parades of Mardi Gras and St Patrick's Day. These groups stage their last procession of the season on the Sunday prior to St Joseph's day, also known as Super Sunday, after which their costumes are dismantled.

New Orleans isn't the only community to put so much effort into this holiday. There are large celebrations in New York City and Buffalo, New York, Chicago, Kansas City, Missouri and throughout Rhode Island. Where there is a high concentration of Italian families, you will find them celebrating St. Joseph's Day.

As a child I have many fond memories of this particular day. There were many strange traditions that I never understood, but over the years have come to appreciate. I would watch my Aunt Myelin, the eldest in my family, take a piece of the bread and carefully wrap it up. She told me she would save it for the year, as is tradition, to remember and ward off famine. I thought she was a bit of a nut, but then again, we never did starve.

My mother would get upset with my father as she would find beans in his pants pockets when she was doing the laundry. Years later I discovered that when you would enter someone's home they would have bowls of beans on a small homemade alter dedicated to St. Joseph. When you would come into the home, it was expected for you to take a small handful and put them in your pocket for good luck.

The origin of the holiday stretches back to the Middle Ages. In Sicily, where St Joseph is their patron saint, (and in many Italian-American communities), there was a great drought and the people prayed to their patron saint to bring rain. They promised if the rains came, they would prepare a large feast in his honor. The rains came and the people prepared a banquet in celebration. The fava bean was the crop that saved the population from starvation, which is why it is on alters in homes. Giving food to the poor and needy is also a tradition during this time.

St Joseph is, of course, the husband to Mary who gave birth to Jesus. This makes St Joseph's day the traditional Italian Father's Day, celebrated centuries before America was discovered. St Joseph was so important to my family, that they named my brother for this patron saint.

This day has another significance. Traditionally this is the day that the swallows return to the Mission of San Juan Capistrano, in California. There are many stories related to why and when this event started. No matter its origin, the fact is that on October 23rd the swallows fly south for 7,500 miles to Goya, Argentina. There they winter until the end of February, when they make their way home, arriving back at the mission of Capistrano on March 19th, St Joseph's Day, where they are greeted with the ringing of church bells and a great festival. It is something to see.

For me this holiday was about the food. This is largely meatless feast, with a lot of breads and pastas, as it falls during Lent. This recipe is the traditional Pasta di San Guise or St Joseph's Day Pasta, which is made with breadcrumbs that symbolize the sawdust of Joseph's carpentry.

St. Joseph's Pasta

Cooked macaroni (or pasta of your choice)
2 TBSP olive oil
5 cloves garlic, chopped
Pinch of red pepper flakes
2 cups chopped fresh fennel
2 cups crushed tomatoes
2 TBSP tomato paste
1 TBSP chopped fresh basil
4 cans of drained, skinless, boneless sardines (or baccala)

Heat oil in large pot and sauté in the garlic and pepper flakes. Add the fennel, tomatoes, paste and basil. Cover and let simmer 30 minutes until the fennel is tender. Add the sardines and simmer for a few more minutes.

Topping:

1 TBSP olive oil
1 cup fine breadcrumbs

Heat oil and add crumbs and heat until golden brown. Pour sauce over the pasta and sprinkle with the breadcrumbs.

PRIDE FESTIVAL OF

CENTRAL PA

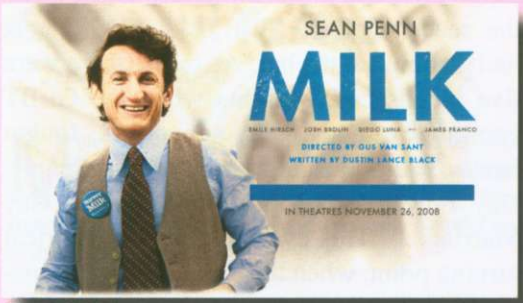
Stonewall Veterans to Lead PrideFest Unity Parade

The 2009 Central PA PrideFest Unity Parade will be headed by the STONEWALL Veterans Association. The SVA is an organization that positively and proudly represents gay, lesbian, bisexual, and trans gendered history and culture. The executive committee of the SVA consists exclusively of actual participants of the 1969 Stonewall Rebellion, the event that is considered to be the birth place of the modern day gay rights movement. Mark Smith, Parade Chair, reported that Pride Festival of Central PA signed a contract to have four Stonewall Veterans appear in the 2009 Pride Parade. The SVA will take their traditional place at the beginning of the parade being escorted by Bikers United and Silent Witness of Central PA, Smith reported.

In June of 1969, the Stonewall Inn, located in Manhattan, was a place for the GLBT community to gather. It was the first place GLBT people, including many teenagers, could feel free to be who they were. The Stonewall was a place where people could dance with whomever they chose. Back in 1969, it was illegal for men to dance with other men. On June 27, 1969, the New York City Police Department raided the Stonewall bar looking for various violations of liquid laws and city ordinances, taking away the security of the GLBT community that had gathered at the bar. As result, there were five inconsecutive nights when the GLBT community and their supporters fought back. The protest signs read: "Gay People, Gay Power, Gay Unity, Gay Rights, Gay Marriage." This event became a historical turning point, when the patrons of the Stonewall Inn decided they would no longer hide from society, instead, they demonstrated to the public that we are people and demanded their rights as human beings and American citizens.

The Pride Festival of Central PA Board of Directors is pleased to have the SVA appear in this year's parade. Jeff Clouser, President of the board, states, "this appearance of the SVA fits in well with the theme of this year's Pride Festival which is Your Rights, Our Rights, Human Rights: Stonewall Rebellion 40th Anniversary." In addition to the SVA's parade appearance, Mr. Smith, parade chair, reported that the Pride Festival of Central PA is working on organizing a Sunday event in which the SVA will present a first hand account of the historical Stonewall rebellion to the central PA community. The SVA has also been offered a booth at this year's festival to educate people about the SVA and collect donations to fund its programs. The SVA seeks to provide educational, community-building, and outreach programs. It also provides funding for Stonewall Veterans who need assistance for shelter, food, and medical care. One of the goals of the SVA is to create a permanent Stonewall Veterans Memorial Monument in New York City's Greenwich Village. More information about the STONEWALL Veterans Association can be obtained through their website www.STONEWALLvets.org or by writing to STONEWALL Veterans' Association, 70-A Greenwich Avenue, Suite 120 Manhattan, NY 10011.

Reviews by: Clayton Christopher



Milk:

A Review by
Clayton Christopher

"My name is Harvey Milk and I am here to recruit you. " Milk tells the story of an ordinary gay man who became an icon for gay civil rights. Sean Penn amazingly channels the spirit of his character's namesake from the unique voice to the undeniable charm. The movie begins with Harvey speaking into a tape recorder, recalling the events of his life, starting when he picks up twenty year old Scott Smith, played by James Franco, in a subway tunnel in New York City on the eve of his 40th birthday. The encounter evolves into a relationship, and the pair decide to move to San Francisco's Castro district in 1972. They open a camera shop on Castro Street, and against the wishes of the other local businesses, run by straight Catholic folk, the store begins to thrive.

With the success of his business and the influx of gays into the Castro District, Milk developed the notion that gays should buy from gay owned businesses. Through this philosophy he formed a gay business group and became its president. During this time, at the request of the Teamsters, he convinced the local gay bars to join a boycott of Coors beer products, and in return the Teamsters hired additional gay truckers. This kind of organization and clout aided him in becoming the self-proclaimed Mayor of Castro Street.

After years of gay targeted police violence in the Castro, Milk reached a point where he knew he had to get politically involved or shut up. In 1973 he decide to run for City Supervisor, because in his mind, the only way to achieve civil rights for gays and lesbians was to join the political process and pass laws providing for these rights. This election was the first of three lost election campaigns. While embarking on the fourth, Scott Smith, having stood by Harvey's side, could take no more, and they parted ways.

In 1977 after another hard fought campaign, Milk won a seat on the city's Board of Supervisors. The campaign coincided with a state referendum called Prop 6, which would make the firing of all gay teachers and their supporters mandatory across the state of California. Milk combated this initiative by encouraging his gay brothers and sisters to come out of the closet to their friends and families, because people that actually know a gay person are half as likely to vote to take away gay rights. Prop 6 failed by more than a million votes.

During his time as supervisor, Harvey was able to pass a number of pro gay ordinances. One measure that he did not support was a vote to move a mental health facility out of Supervisor Dan White's District. This lack of support severed any ties the two once had, and on November 27, 1978, Dan White shot both Harvey Milk and Mayor Moscone to death in their offices. That evening a spontaneous crowd of 25,000 to 40,000 gathered in the Castro and held a candle light vigil by walking to town hall.

Dan White, using the cooked up "Twinkie Defense", only served five years in prison for the murders of both men. He then returned home, and a year and a half later committed suicide.

Harvey's legacy as the first elected openly gay official in the country has rippled throughout our national politics. Today we have 664 elected and appointed openly gay officials in North America, with forty nine in Pennsylvania alone. This ever growing contingent of advocates is very exciting and full of life changing possibility for all LGBT people. Even here in Harrisburg, City Council just recently passed a domestic partnership registry to help unmarried couples attain the same rights as married couples. This ordinance was developed by our very own openly gay city councilman Dan Miller.

Harvey's ideals, although initiated in the late 70's, are still relevant today. The more we publicly participate in the process of politics, the greater the potential we have for securing the civil rights currently available to our hetero brothers and sisters. Also, the more Americans that personally know an out LGBT person, the more that translates into votes of support at the polls.

Coming back to the movie, as this piece is a movie review after all, it is a must see for every LGBT person and every person who supports the LGBT community, and even those whose support we have yet to secure. It is a top notch production, wonderfully acted, shot, scored, and directed. I would recommend it not only as a history lesson about vision and dedication, but also as a solid biographical cinematic treasure. Can you say Oscar?!!!

VISION OF HOPE MCC

The Bible and Homosexuality: Queering the Bible

by: Revs. Debbie Coggin and Jennifer Glass

The four articles we wrote previously looked at all of the six passages of the Bible that supposedly address homosexuality: Genesis 19:1-29; Leviticus 18:22 and 20:13; Romans 1: 26-27; 1st Corinthians 6:9-11; and 1st Timothy 1:10. In each article, we presented a general overview of a lot of information. We usually address passages like these during a four to six hour workshop. It was not possible to mention everything here. Nevertheless, each time our conclusion was the same – we believe that homosexuality is not a biblical concern.

We know that the Bible has been used to beat up certain minorities, and for us, that means GLBT persons. Yet, for both of us, we are dismayed and disheartened at the number of people in our GLBT community who are still afraid of the Bible because of these few verses. None of us needs to be afraid of God's word, particularly when there are so many parts of the Bible which affirm God's love and the goodness of God's creation.

As pastors, we think it is about time that God's people get real about God's word. Thus, when we teach about the Bible and Homosexuality, the third part of our presentation includes "Queering the Bible," based upon Queer Biblical scholarship. In our opinion, there are many passages in the Bible that affirm our queer lives.

As an introduction, let us explain the use of the word Queer. We use this term to describe our GLBT selves and sexual diversity. It is also a term used to define political dissidence and sexual difference. In the Handbook of Postmodern Biblical Interpretation, "Queer Theory" states that the term is used to describe anything outside of the "norm," those not heterosexual.

The Merriam-Webster Online Dictionary (www.m-w.com) says this:

2 a : differing in some odd way from what is usual or normal
b (1) : **ECCENTRIC, UNCONVENTIONAL**
d (1) often disparaging: **HOMOSEXUAL** (2) sometimes offensive: **GAY** 4b

Usage Over the past two decades, an important change has occurred in the use of queer in sense 2d. The older, strongly pejorative use has certainly not vanished, but a use by some gay people and some academics as a neutral or even positive term has established itself. This development is most noticeable in the adjective but is reflected in the corresponding noun as well. The newer use is sometimes taken to be offensive, especially by older gay men who fostered the acceptance of gay in these uses and still have a strong preference for it.

In recent years, there have been movements that seek to reclaim derogatory words from oppressive culture. Certain members of the GLBT community have done this with the word Queer. In fact, some would say that they have "taken back" this word and aren't letting anyone use this word against them any more. In fact, there is a book called "Take Back the Word: A Queer Reading of the Bible" which is full of articles based upon Queer Biblical scholarship.

The "Introduction" of this text notes, "This anthology attempts to provide examples of a queer biblical hermeneutic that engages the entire Bible and its message, not just selected texts and characters. It is a strategy that outs the queer community by articulating the community's lived experience in and beyond the closet as well as its particular concerns when encountering and appropriating the biblical text. It is a strategy that attempts to take back the Bible as the Word of God for our community, instead of a club."

Many Biblical Scholars have been studying and writing in the field of Queer Biblical Interpretation which seeks to disrupt traditional heterosexist readings of the Bible by studying the bible, the ancient world, and the original languages of ancient Hebrew and Greek.
In this type of scholarship, there are several areas of focus. For instance, we identify texts that affirm same-sex love and the goodness of human sexuality.

In addition, scholars "Out" the Bible and "reconstruct" the queer identities of Biblical characters. Further, we read the Bible from the social location of queers, as do African Americans, Women / Feminists, Latin Americans, Asians, Africans, etc. In this instance, the entire Bible and message is taken back as the word of God for a particular community. The Bible is viewed as "friend," not harmful, but life-giving as the word of God. This is where queer people find themselves and their story within the Biblical story, and read that story with hope and faith.

This article introduces our version of Queering the Bible. Our next article will begin looking at particular Queer texts that affirm same-sex loving relationships, such as David and Jonathon and Ruth and Naomi. Keep checking back for more!

If you have any questions about what we presented, the Bible and homosexuality, or other matters of faith, please feel free to email Pastors Deb and Jen:
pastor@visionofhopemcc.org.

Capital Region Stonewall Democrats

Jeff Welshans, Chair
Capital Region Stonewall Democrats
www.CapitalStonewall.org

CHEERS to full civil marriage equality and to all the protesters who came out on February 11th in Harrisburg to rally in support of it. The number of straight allies who attended was impressive, as was the fact that in over two hours I witnessed only two negative reactions, compared to hundreds of honks and thumbs-up of passers-by in support.

CHEERS to the 98th annual International Women's Day, which on March 8th will celebrate the economic, political, and social achievements of women past, present, and future. But a big **JEERS** to Pennsylvania for ranking 46th out of the 50 states in the percentage of women serving in state legislatures. Women now hold just 37 out of 253 seats (14.6%) in PA. We can do much better than that.

Speaking of achievements by women, **CHEERS** to Lilly Ledbetter and to her perseverance over the past decade in pursuit of gender equality. The first act President Obama signed into law was the Lilly Ledbetter Fair Pay Act of 2009, which will help close the pay gap between men and women. Did you know that just one year after college graduation, women working full time are already earning only 80 percent as much as their male colleagues? Unfortunately, the pay disparity only increases from there. While this new law won't allow Lilly Ledbetter to collect the 20 years of back pay she deserves, it will help all of our daughters and grand-daughters and nieces and grand-nieces to finally earn what they deserve.

CHEERS to President Obama for repealing the Bush administration's global gag rule, which limited funding to organizations that provide basic health care and family planning services to the poor in Third World countries. The gag rule resulted in more unintended pregnancies, more maternal complications and injuries, less information about HIV/AIDS prevention and treatment, and more - not fewer - abortions.

JEERS to Congressional Republicans who voted against the Economic Stimulus Bill, and then proceeded to go home and brag about how much money they got placed in the bill for needed programs in their states. It seems many Republicans wanted the Stimulus Bill to pass, but they didn't have the cajones to vote for it.

On a non-political note, **CHEERS** to America's sport: football. (Sorry, baseball, but you've been passed by.) First off, congratulations to the Pittsburgh Steelers, who won their record sixth Super Bowl last month. Also, let's welcome the Harrisburg Stampede, our new professional indoor football team whose first home game will be at the Farm Show on March 28th. During half-time of that game, you can also check out a scrimmage of women's semi-pro football that includes our own Central PA Vipers, who will begin their regular season at home on April 18th.

JEERS to Governor Ed Rendell. We're more than willing to jeer Democrats when it's warranted, and the Governor's hiring of recently ousted state representative Dan Surra to a newly created position as an advisor to the Pennsylvania Wilds at $95,000 a year certainly qualifies. This hiring was in spite of a statewide hiring freeze and the Governor's demand for "no whining" from thousands of state workers who are in danger of being laid off due to the state budget crisis. And exactly what and where are the Pennsylvania Wilds anyway?

Finally, **CHEERS** to all the potential candidates out pounding the pavement between February 17th and March 10th to collect enough signatures on nomination petitions in order to get their names placed on the ballot for May 19th's Primary Election. Once all the candidates are confirmed, Capitol Stonewall will host a "Meet the Candidates" night. Details aren't set at press time, but be sure to check out our website (www.CapitalStonewall.org) for the time and location.

Feburary 21st, 4 Parties!!!

The Winter Arts Festival was finalized with All the King's Men, a drag king group and more; Hosted by Planned Parenthood of Central PA.

Back row, your presenters: Debbie, Greg and Betsy
Front row, the troupe: Julee, Leighsa, Jill, Karin, Maria & Katie

Art Association of Harrisburg, hosted their Annual Bal Masque.

Bob & Cathy

Thi, Julie, Shauna & Tori

Pepper Mashay @ Stallions

Poison, Pepper, Shelly, Michael & Biscuit

Club XS Mardi Gras Party

Jamacia & Whitley David & Rastic George Michael & Aaron

InsideOUT Finale

"Be Well My Family... Until We Meet Again"

Hello, my family! "The time has come to say good-bye to all our company," and I am very sad but excited in the very same breathe of emotion. I will forever be grateful to Panzee Press, its staff, and you, our readers. This was a wonderful opportunity for me to touch (I hope I achieved this) the hearts and souls of my LGBT family. You will never know how much your words of encouragement meant to me when you would write or just walk up to me at different events and places and say, "I love your column," or "when's the next InsideOUT column coming?" We are such a loving and supportive community from Maryland to Pennsylvania, and every town in between. Please continue to support your fellow brothers and sisters, and the many businesses and straight friends that support us. Most of all please continue to support Panzee Press by getting a subscription. God bless Bolton, his brother Mike, Editor Extraordinaire, Cathy, and the Panzee staff for making it possible for me to reach my audience. Remember, the owners of Panzee, with kindness in their hearts, have invested their personal finances into this magazine to provide a positive, enlightening and entertaining view of our LGBT community.

I hope that you, my readers, will continue to support my writings in the future. You can find out what will happen next with me by signing up at my website www.reelawakenings.org or www.reelawakenings.com, or emailing me at events@reelawakenings.org

Until next time,,
"Be Well My Friends"
Jarvis Brooks

Editor's Note: *Many thanks to Jarvis for his contribution to Panzee. Often people would comment to me that they enjoy this column, and think about Jarvis' words. Unfortunately, I have to consider the budget by limiting the number of pages. Your response to our advertisements and your subscription would prevent such cuts. Since we no longer distribute in Hagerstown, I thought it best to keep local writers, and leave Jarvis to find a writer's outlet closer to his home.*

Thanks again to Jarvis,,
Bolton Winpenny, C.O.O.
Panzee Press, LLC

Miss Rising Star Gay PA, America, Liquid 891, Feb. 6th

Photos by Michael Burke

Ashley Lynn, Miss Rising Star 2009, Crowned by Vicky Dominatrix (Miss PA)

Salsa Caliente (1st Alt)

Michelle Leigh Sterling

Tequila Daniels

Laquisha Rodriguez

Tatiana Voche

Sabrina White

Steel Eyes

by Kenneth D. Richards

I was in tunnel vision; all I could see was the grey ring of the eye surrounding the pupil of an enemy solider who must have been twenty feet away. I was in my battle, and he in his. There was a moment in physical time, it was so short that neither of us missed a movement with our swords, but in that moment, so much was said, so much was felt… I would think it was a dream if not for later events.

I didn't see the rest of his battle, but mine went according to plan. I pretended to trip on an unseen stone. To save my balance, the sword in my right arm went up, and my shield arm moved left. My opponent seized my supposed error. He lunged at my open right side, but I brought my shield back and pushed him as I blocked. Like any good soldier would, he used my own momentum against me. He swung back with his same left arm, but in order to keep a fluid movement he came in high, and his left side was open. His body came close to mine, too close for the sword to be effective. With my right arm still high in the air, I dropped my sword, bent quick to bring my right hand to the top of my boot where I pulled my knife. All in the same motion, as he brought his momentum down with his sword, I punched my knife into that weak spot: the seam in his armor, just beneath his left underarm. My knife punctured his vital organs, the tilt of his sword gave me a knock that would lose a battle; but as I fell, he died.

The first time this happened was a fortunate accident; the stone I tripped on was real. The second time was clever; battle experience and wit of which to be proud. Then the third and fourth, it started to seem all too simple. After fifty or more fights, using the exact same trick… I can't explain what I felt: A philosophy, a solution, an understanding, not only of the enemy, but of my own people. And a betrayal. Of all of it, the worst sting was my betrayal.

I was fighting the Brethren, a subservient race to our real enemy, the Aldison. If I were the hero they claimed me to be, I would have fought an Aldison but everybody knew such heroes didn't live. The Aldison were few; the queens of a hive. As I had recently learned, the Brethren were an instinctive and predictable race, always reacting the same way to a given situation. They used what they were taught well, but didn't add their own logic to any challenge they faced.

They came from across the ocean. They offered freedom during a time when our own governments were dictating all aspects of our lives. Clearly we're a people who strive to better ourselves. If it weren't for this continued quest to better ourselves, where would we be? The Aldison came with a solution. They claimed to be a government from across the great water with a tried and true solution to all that ailed us. But I wasn't buying it, and neither were my allies. The Aldison wanted to take all that we had, then give it back to us as they saw fit. We would beg them for a portion of what they took from us.

I digress. My story isn't about the war, it's about the man with the steel eyes. It's about my betrayal. It's about my understanding. The Brethren were simple. They followed a path with training by the Aldison. The Aldison provided for all their needs; the Brethren only had to follow. In time of war, the Aldison provided. If the Brethren were to take notice, they might have discovered that the Aldison didn't provide anything that the Brethren didn't give them to begin with except knowledge of how to use it. Aldison took their goods, trained them and put them to war. With the Brethren supplies, the Aldison made armor and weapons. They made strategic decisions. They made the flaw just under the left armpit.

My betrayal was that I didn't tell my brothers about this weak point. By keeping it to myself, it went unnoticed. The Aldison didn't count ten or twenty Brethren dead each day with the same affliction. But if I told my friends, and they each killed with the simplicity and volume as I was, then the Aldison would notice, the flaw in the Brethren uniform would be fixed, and I would no longer have my edge.

But still, I digress. My story resurfaces during a time of peace. After we got used to the idea that these invaders were coming across the ocean with a dual race, there was a period during which some of what they said sounded like it might be beneficial. A truce was called and peace talks were underway.

Some factions of humans wanted to let the Aldison lead. "They have a peaceful way. What have they done, other than to protect themselves, which we should fear? Let's listen, let's work with them, and let's take what they have learned from across the ocean. Clearly, our own ways are self destructive, let us listen!"

He was human, this man with the grey eyes, but he wore the dress of a sympathizer, and he wore it proudly. During this time of peace, he walked into my local tavern. It must have been three years since our eyes met on the war field, but as soon as I saw him, it all came flooding back.

It was immediately clear that he also remembered. As I leaned on my barstool, he walked right up and put one foot between mine. He gave no evidence of concern that we were on opposite sides of the war. I was so impressed with his stance, his confidence, his muscular features, that I didn't look at his eyes… until I did. It was just one glance, and time folded on itself. Just as the one moment three years ago lasted hours compared to the isolated movement of our swords; so did the time between evaporate into nothing. At the beginning of my breath I caught his eye on the battlefield during war, at the end of my breath we were sharing a beer during truce.

The Happenings In Harrisburg...

..."Allegedly"...

It feels so good to be back between these pages... I missed ya'll... Allegedly!!!

So, let's get started...

Poison has become the new "Miss Club XS"... what a night that was... wish I could remember... Allegedly!!!

Ashley Lynn is the newly crowned "Miss Rising Star"... There were two contestants... Salsa Caliente was the first alternate... the scores were soooooo close... Allegedly!!!

I am the new owner and promoter of Miss Harrisburg America... Former Miss America, Rachael Eriks, will be our special guest that evening... I promise you a night you will not soon forget... Allegedly!!! Applications will be ready by mid March.

Ms. Pepper Mashay was at Stallions on Feb. 21st for the Mardi Gras weekend... what a

Reading's "Theoretically"

by Daniel Kincade

Greetings all, and welcome to another exciting installment of Reading's voice in the Panzee... Theoretically.

Well, in case you haven't heard the information, twisted from various and sundry sources, the 2009 MDAS Pageant has been officially postponed/cancelled. While all crowned representatives and qualified individuals will still remain eligible when the pageant is held, this year UNFORTUNATELY will not be the year. The economy and various other reasons have, of course, come deeply into play in this decision, but don't count "The Drag Revolution" out just yet...Theoretically.

The first Saturday in February saw the start of a new DJ on Saturday nights at The Red Star. The jury's still out on this one, but needless to say, I miss BILL E.

Some misguided people seem to think that they are the end all and be all of drag. I recently heard in reference to MDAS that the system should have tried to be more like the Delusion system....As I recall, MDAS NEVER fixed a pageant...Theoretically.

The weekend of Valentine's Day I had the opportunity to be a part of my first show in musical theater. What was especially exciting was the fact that I was in said show with my wonderful and loving boyfriend. While the show was FABULOUS, and I love the director Irving, the only down side was that apparently the Grinch felt the need to steal Valentine's Day this year...Theoretically.

In regards to the theater, I had the pleasure of working

I Can Report....

Gossip By:
Kitty-Mame Dietrich

Hello my darlings. I hope you are all rested from your holiday festivities, and staying nice and warm in this extreme winter weather we have been having. If you haven't yet been able to shake the deep winters' chill, consider this report to be a nice hot toddy for your gossip-driven soul. Though the weather may be chilly, the scene has been heating up with quite a bit of unruly behavior.

First, I must report, or rather, refute a report, that has been swirling around about me. It came to my attention through a trustworthy sister of mine at a Christmas party we both attended this season. It was reported to me that a certain "Jewish drag-princess" has been circulating a rumor that the reason I have not appeared on the scene of late is because my partner dislikes my doing drag and will not allow me to do it as long as we are together. Well, I can tell you all that this lame attempt at gossip, from a lowly "Jewish drag- princess," is simply to get herself back into a scene from which she had been rejected for the last year or so, and thusly is completely FALSE. As some of you may have read in my cover story. "The Life of a Drag Queen", I consider female illusion to be a very big part of who I am as an individual, and is a non-negotiable for any relationship I may be in. Hence, I have not had many relationships in my time. However, I am lucky

show… Let's just say if you missed it you missed out on one hell of a night.

Don't forget St. Patrick's Day, March 17th. The annual Green High Heel race is on again… Check out your local drinkery and sponsor the runner from your favorite barstool… then stop out for some green beer and watch as they run around downtown in some fabulashly decorated pumps.

OK… Time for Gossip… Gossip… Gossip…

Here's an update on the former Miss PA / Miss MD who was seen being escorted out of a certain bar (704). No names please… In her form fitting silver wrist "cuffs"… Allegedly!!! It seems that she has been very busy getting her one of a kind orange jumpsuit / gown all bedazzled up for the upcoming pageant season… new title being won "Miss D.C.P."…a little helpful hint: grape jelly does wonders as a fill in for hair gel if you can't get to the commissary.

Finally the million dollar question… is the 704 Strawberry sold yet??? … And the answer is… Damn… my pen ran out of ink.

Until next time, my little bar (for sale) flies… I'll meet you at the commissary…

Ms. Biscuit

---

with the fine folks at Genesis Theatre here in Reading. The facility is located at the corner of 10th and Walnut Streets, and is only a hop, skip, and a jump from The Red Star. If you're ever looking to spend a night out on the town, and are in the mood for a good show, please feel free to look them up.

It's rather unprofessional when an email sent to a bar or club is circulated to the public before the actual announcement is made public itself…it seems that someone needs to learn some professional courtesy.

The next Kincade show at The Red Star will be on April 25th…Mark your calendars for this one, as Joey Josephs and Precious Caliente will be in town for the night!

You always know your true friends. I have learned this over the last ten or so years. It's wonderful to know those that you can truly count on, and the ones who are only out for themselves…don't you think?

Thanks to EVERYONE who came out to help us honor the memories of Denise DuJour and Mary Gomez on January 31st. The show was a fundraiser for The Reading Railmen's Ed Noll Memorial PWA Fund. Thanks to the over 100 people who came out that night, we raised over $450 for this worthwhile cause. You don't have to wait for a fundraiser to give to the fund. If you're interested, please talk to Teri at The Red Star…

Some people are lucky enough to find love. I happen to find myself in that category. If you're one of those who aren't, don't be bitter. It's also best not to try to insert yourselves in the middle of others' relationships. You might just find yourself bitter and lonely, or you may even find that your advances are declined.

Well, that's all for now my dears. Until next time, don't do anything I would do.

DANIEL

---

enough to have met a man who IS NOT encumbered or embarrassed by the fact that I am a female illusionist, who stands by me and supports me in all my ventures as an illusionist, and who has done so for the last eight months in which we have been together. Jealousy is an ugly thing, and YES, I have felt downtrodden when one of my sisters in illusion has found a good man who supports what she does. However, I have never acted against them. Small people with small minds do small things to make themselves feel bigger. Unfortunately, that feeling is usually short-lived. You should try being supportive for once, "princess," and maybe the good Karma will favor you in the future. Now, onto what I can report.

I can report that a wanted "has been" Miss P.A. tried to go undercover in a "fruity" neighborhood bar by disguising herself as….get this…a man. Unfortunately for her, her "cover" didn't cut it and she was recognized instantly by some of her "sisters," one of whom "entertained" her and the other who called the police! Soon after, "the fuzz" was escorting her from the "fruity" establishment in a brand-new pair of custom-designed steel "bracelets," as she was all the while screaming that her mommy "took care of this." Needless to say, horizontal stripes are not that flattering on a chubby girl, but may comprise the bulk of her wardrobe in the future. I guess she will be coming down from her "rocky mountain" high pretty quickly, if she has not already.

Well, that's all for now my dears. Pageant season will be starting up soon, and I'm sure the gossip freeze will melt like ice and be free-flowing once again. Until next month my pretties: love you all more than my Manolos.

-Kitty

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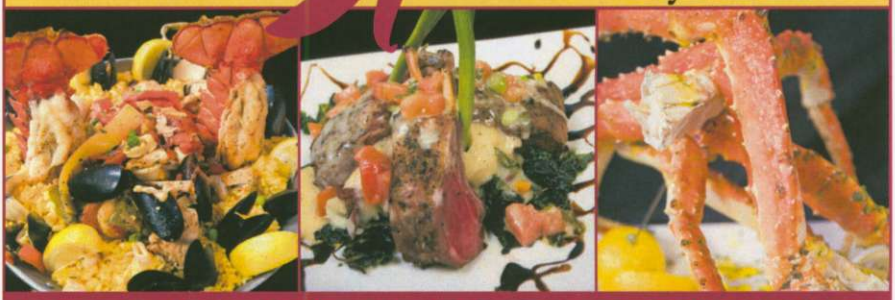

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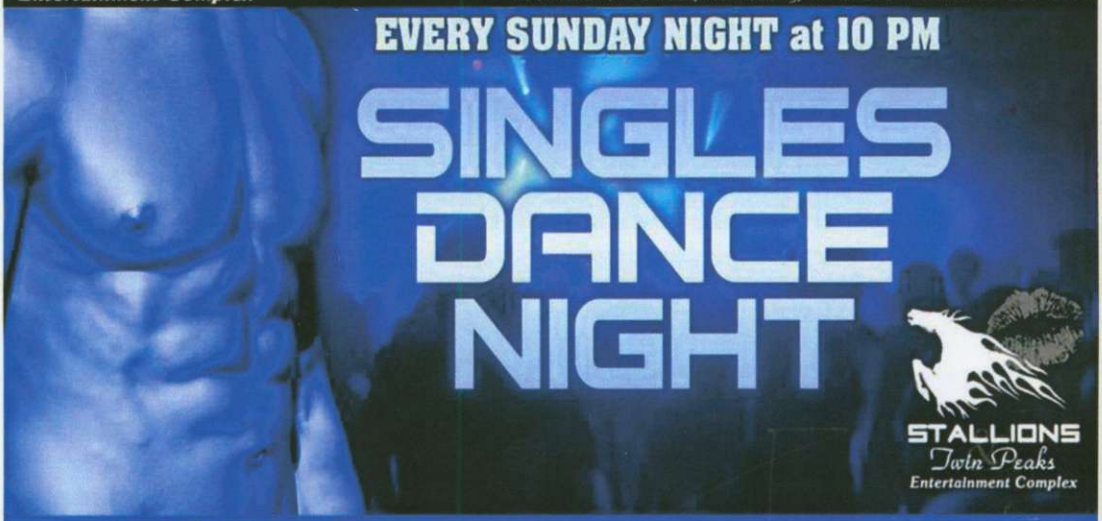

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